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OPINION METERThis week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, how would you rate your level of optimism for the new year?

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ASIA



More than 400 are hurt in the Philippines' New Year's Eve celebrations. ► PAGE 15

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FOLLOWING SAN NICOLAS' OPINION

Fitial agrees: PPA deal void

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

Joey P. San Nicolas' opinion on the controversial no-bid \$190.8-million power purchase agreement, Gov. Benigno R. Fi-



Demapan

tial now agrees that the deal is void and unenforceable, according to press secretary Angel A. Demapan.

This developed as San Nicolas' opinion drew negative reactions from some lawmakers and concerned citizen Glen Hunter.

Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* that Fitial concurs with the opinion issued Monday by San Nicolas, who found that the prior position of the Office of the Attorney General that the contract was proper was erroneous.

See PPA on Page 4

Teen killed after being assaulted, hit by cars

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

A teenager died early morning yesterday after he was assaulted Tuesday night by two unidentified men and left lying on the highway in central Garapan where two vehicles subsequently ran over him.

Police said a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center pronounced the victim, a 19-year-old Chuukese male, dead at 3:15am.

The victim suffered lacerations on the right side of his head, left lower lip, and bruises on the face.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said an au-

topsy will be conducted.

Tarkong said traffic and criminal investigators classified the case as a riot/autopedestrian/hit and run (fatality).

Traffic officers responded on Tuesday at 11:53pm to Chalan Pale Arnold or Middle Road near Mobil Mart after receiving a report of an auto-pedestrian incident.

Police investigation showed that two men chased the victim and caught him on the outer northbound lane of the highway in front of LJ Market.

After assaulting the victim, the two suspects, also described as Chuukese, left him lying on the outer northbound lane as they

See TEEN on Page 4

Caysa is NMI's New Year baby

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

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REPORTER

The New Year's Day birth of their daughter gave newlyweds Spencer and Lovely Marchadesch many reasons to be excited.

The 8-lb, 1-ounce baby girl, whom they named Caysa Marchadesch, made a quick arrival at 6:28pm Tuesday, marking the Commonwealth's first birth of 2013. She measured 21 inches in length.

Lovely Marchadesch, 26, of Tanapag village, woke with contractions at 2am Tuesday right after the family's New Year's Eve celebration. It was past 5am when they determined it was time. Her 29-year-old husband, Spencer, drove Lovely to the

See CAYSA on Page 4

MONETH G. DE

Lovely and Spencer Marchadesch, eyes full of love and appreciation, look at their newborn baby girl, Caysa, at the hospital yesterday. Baby Caysa was born at 6:28pm New Year's Day and is the CNMI's New Year Baby for 2013.





AFTER HOLIDAY SPECIALS

2 THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2013 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Local



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CLARISSA V. DAVID From left to right: Do Re Mi School's Zhen Yu Su, Alan Tudela, Ao Zhang, Yi Wang, and Colin Fruit smile for the camera following an interview last Friday.

Three young Saipan violinists aim for the stars

By CLARISSA V. DAVID clarissa_david@saipantribune.com

Three students of Do Re Mi School continue to show great progress in playing the violin, inspiring their parents and school officials to seek for community sponsors that would give them opportunities to chase their dream to become professional violinists someday.

Alan Tudela, Zhen Yu Su, and Colin Fruit's latest achievement was performing for the crowd at the 2nd Annual CNMI Got Talent, a search for the most talented solo or group acts in the Commonwealth sponsored by Bridge Capital LLC.

For the second consecutive year, Tudela bested other participants to win the coveted \$2,000 grand prize at the event that coincided with the company's Christmas party at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret last Dec. 15.

Su and Fruit, meanwhile, bagged two of the three mini grand prizes worth \$1,000 each

The only son of Hua and the late Alejandro C. Tudela, the younger Tudela has already won numerous competitions and holds many awards under his belt prior to last December's competition.

At the age of 4, Tudela cried a lot when he first heard violin music—a crucial moment in his life that made his mother realize early on that he might have the talent to play the instrument.

"I cried because it was a beautiful sound. I really love to play the violin. It makes me feel relaxed," said the 12-year-old Tudela.

Nowadays, Tudela keeps himself busy by performing in public more often and rigorously practicing and training in preparation for his immediate goal to participate in the Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition.

The competition, named after its founder, Yehudi Menuhin, is the world's leading international violin competition for players under the age of 22. It will be held at Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music at the University of Texas in Austin from Feb. 21 to March 2, 2014, with the ap-

plication period from March to October 2013.

"Alan spends most of his time playing the violin. He has quite a good technique for his age. With someone who has much love for a difficult instrument like the violin, I know that Alan will succeed," said Do Re Mi School president and violin instructor Ao Zhang.

Zhen Yu Su, on the other hand, believes that music runs in the family, recounting how he first fell in love with the instrument. "I went to a Do Re Mi School concert and the music just impacted me," said the younger of two children of Ying Qi Su and Hong Chao Chen.

The younger Su, who has been playing the violin for 10 years, has already developed very high technique and even has a "special memory" that manifest in how he works his instrument after seeing a performance or concert.

Su's skills and talent earned him in 2011 a prestigious scholarship with the Aspen Music Festival and School, an internationally renowned classical music festival founded in 1949 and presents music in an intimate, small-town setting as well as serve as a training ground for young adult musicians.

When asked about his experience in the festival and school, Su said, "When you go out into the world, you meet other people and it broadens your horizon and it gives you a lot of experience. You learn that everyone is unique in their own way."

Su, 12, earned the same scholarship this year and also got accepted in the final round of the 2012 Hong Kong International Violin Competition this month.

"Music can really touch my heart. I just want other people to also be happy and enjoy whenever they hear my music," said Su, adding that he is rehearsing for his upcoming contest and is also preparing for his college auditions.

Colin Fruit, meanwhile, already has a schedule for his final round of auditions to three music schools in the mainland.

"I'm really excited and optimistic about college and I look forward to the op-

See VIOLINISTS on Next Page

Sen. Ayuyu wants to be released to a third-party custodian

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

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Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (R-Rota) wants to be released from detention and has asked the court to conduct a hearing for this

Through his lawyer, Joaquin DLG. Torres, the lawmaker filed in federal court on Friday a motion for his release to thirdparty custodian Michael Borja.

Ayuyu sought for a detention hearing to determine if Borja is a suitable third-party custodian.

A third-party custodian is an individual who takes on the responsibility for a criminal defendant. The government retains this sort of custodian pending criminal court proceedings. The government interviews potential third-party custodians to ensure they meet certain reauirements.

Manglona recently ordered the continued detention of Ayuyu pending his trial on new charges of obstruction of justice, tampering with witnesses, and attempting to destroy evidence related

NMI Chief Judge Ramona V.

U.S. District Court for the

to his first case—attempting to smuggle endangered fruit bats.

Manglona remanded the 48-vear-old Avuvu into the custody of the U.S. Marshal after determining that he poses a serious risk, that he will obstruct or attempt to obstruct justice or threaten or attempt to threaten witnesses or intimidate witnesses

Federal agents arrested Ayuyu after a federal grand jury handed down a new indictment charging him with conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding,

next week. Inexperienced mari-

ners, especially those operating

smaller vessels, should avoid

boating in these conditions. If

suborning perjury, attempting to prevent testimony of a witness, obstructing the due administration of justice, and attempting to destroy or remove seized property. The lawmaker pleaded not guilty. Ayuyu was initially indicted for violations of the Endangered

obstructing an official proceed-

ing, tampering with a witness,

Species Act and the Lacey Act for his role in possessing and transporting eight federally protected Mariana fruit bats on Oct. 17, 2010.

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VIOLINISTS

From Page 2

portunity to study and learn with real violinists," said the 17-year-old son of Cameron and Ruth Fruit.

The younger Fruit said he has been playing the violin for eight years now, with the last three years being trained by Zhang at Do Re Mi School.

"I begged my dad to get me a violin. Finally he did and I started taking lessons. I've always enjoyed the sound of a violin. There's something special about it," said Fruit, whose three younger brothers also play the instrument.

The Bridge Capital talent search was the first time for Fruit to join any competition, giving him more confidence to sign up for other contests and perform publicly.

"I couldn't do it without the help of my teachers and

the school. I had so many chances to perform outside through them. It's really because of them that I can play at all," he added.

Zhang, who personally trained the three young students, expressed his desire to encourage and help them achieve their dream to become world-class violinists.

To make this happen, he said a student need to have a love for music, a good teacher, good parents, a lot of time, and the opportunity to perform.

"I'm really proud of them. They have a big and bright future ahead. Many students from our school have succeeded after their time at Do Re Mi School, and I hope these three students will have the opportunity to show their talents and make the CNMI proud," said Zhang.

For more information, visit Do Re Mi School in Chinatown or call 233-7777.

EMO warns of dangerous surf feet will persist along east facing The Emergency Management Office extended yesterday the high surf advisory it issued Tuesday, saying the advisory will remain in effect until 6pm

Tuesday next week. In an advisory yesterday, EMO said that fresh to strong trade winds and combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will continue across the Marianas through the weekend.

Hazardous surf of 10 to 12

reefs through early next week, the advisory states. Hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet will continue along north facing reefs through at least Friday.

"East to northeast winds of 20 knots with frequent gusts to 30 knots and combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft through early

travel by boat is necessary exercise caution, especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. EMO also advises the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially

those along north and east facing reefs as rip currents are life Some conditions may apply threatening. (EMO)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 3rd birthday to our lil' man, Kayven Xane King Cruz! May this wonderful day of yours be filled with lots of love, joy and happiness! You've been a true blessing in our lives from the start. We love you so much. With lots of hugs and kisses, Mommy, Daddy, and Baby Byron.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday, youth senator Audrey Joy Ada, who is celebrating her special day today, Dec. 3! Enjoy your day and come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Biba kumpliaños to Francisco Manibusan Camacho! May you have a joyous and awesome day. God bless and we love you. Greetings coming out from your lovely wife, familia, and friends.



Even the most expensive gift in the world cannot match your worth; you are priceless. Thank you for being my awesome wife, a wonderful mother to our daughter, my best friend, and the love of my life! Warm wishes for a happy, happy birthday to Vanessa Sabrina Kisaall the accomplishments that Camacho! God bless and we you've achieved. Greetings love you. Greetings come from Shawn and Shalei.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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IN NEW IMPEACHMENT BID VS FITIAL

Dela Cruz: Include failure to appoint DPS chief

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

REPORTER

Incoming House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) disclosed yesterday that he will include in the new impeachment resolution against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial the latter's failure to appoint a permanent commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

Dela Cruz said that Fitial consistently alternates brothers Ambrosio and Aniceto Ogumoro as acting DPS commissioner.

"Consistently, like a merry-goround," Dela Cruz said.

The lawmaker said it would be a neglect of duty on the governor's part not to carry out the mandate of appointing a permanent DPS commissioner.

Adding this to the articles of impeachment means that the House impeachment panel will go back to the original 16 articles, he said.

During the impeachment proceed-

ings, the panel decided to delete the NMI Retirement Fund issue among the 16 articles of impeachment. The impeachment bid was subsequently defeated.

Dela Cruz said he believes the DPS issue merits to be included as another article in the impeachment resolution.

"It is really an insult. Not only it is an insult, it is a neglect of this governor not to appoint a permanent DPS commissioner," he said.

The incoming vice speaker said this is the same method that Fitial employs with the Department of Public Lands.

"Like other agencies, he puts trust on individuals who don't really have a clear and sound attitude toward the departments or agencies that they serve," he said.

Dela Cruz believes that Fitial does this because the governor is very political.

"He wants people that he trusts. It doesn't matter whether they can do their job or not," the lawmaker added.



SILVER MEDALIST

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hopwood Team celebrates after emerging as the silver medalist in last month's PSS Math Court Competition for middle schools.

PPA

From Page 1

Furthermore, Demapan said, Fitial recognizes that San Nicolas' latest position will allow for a full examination of the merits of the proposal and the need to address the long-term power needs of the Commonwealth.

"There are no arguments that the current power generation system is costly and reaching the end of its life expectancy. It is still important for the Commonwealth to find alternatives in pursuit of lowering utility costs and attracting new industries to the CNMI," Demapan said.

In his opinion, San Nicolas declared that Fitial is not liable for any cause of action related to his signing of the power purchase agreement with the Delawarebased Saipan Development LLC.

San Nicolas said that Fitial cannot be blamed because he reasonably relied on the certification of then attorney general Edward T. Buckingham that the power purchase agreement was "proper as to form and capacity."

San Nicolas, however, determined

that Fitial did not have the authority, pursuant to Executive Order 2012-17, to enter into the power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said yesterday that, since San Nicolas has already ruled that the governor does not have the authority to sign the power purchase agreement, then he believes that the contract is already deemed null and void.

With San Nicolas' opinion, Torres said it is more important for the CNMI to bring back Buckingham to clarify exactly what transpired in the contract signing.

"My concern is how was this contract formulated? How was it consummated? Because we don't want to set the wrong precedent for the next administration or the following administration," he said.

The senator pointed out that for any government contract of such magnitude or even above \$1 million, there should be at least a public hearing or public notice on what's going on.

"I also advise the other departments whether they are autonomous or not that they have to hold public hearings and be open to the public," he added.

Attorney Ramon K. Quichocho said that if it is true that Fitial merely relied on a mistaken opinion by Buckingham, then the governor must now take steps to cancel the power purchase agreement and its related agreements-particularly since he is now getting competent advice from San Nicolas.

"Intentional blind reliance on a mistaken opinion by an attorney, as in the case here, is clearly not the type of reliance that the AG opinion addresses," said Quichocho on behalf of his clients, Reps. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) and Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan) and the Senate. The three are suing Fitial to invalidate the power deal.

Incoming House Vice Speaker Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) said he does not believe that Fitial is not liable for signing the power purchase agreement.

"I believe that the governor is well aware of what this type of contract entails. It entails a lot of financial resources from the CNMI government," Dela Cruz said.

The lawmaker strongly feels that this would become a public debt.

Concerned citizen Hunter said what

appears to be incorrectly implied by San Nicolas' opinion is that Fitial should sign off on any and all contracts simply because the AG gives him the okay that they are proper as to form and capacity.

"That is not and should not be the case. Simply stating that the governor can legally sign a document does not in any way alleviate Fitial of his responsibility as the governor to make sound and rational decision as to whether he should sign off on them," Hunter said.

Hunter said that San Nicolas' opinion "appears to be a feeble attempt" by the new AG to alter the focus of public concerns with the Saipan Development LLC deal "in order to make Fitial out to be nothing more than an ignorant victim."

"That is not the case at all and I don't think the public is that blind and dumb," he said.

Hunter said it is very clear that the Saipan Development LLC deal is not good for the CNMI.

"The person directly responsible for its existence is Fitial and he should be held accountable. The people deserve a full investigation into the true motives behind the execution of this secretive deal," he added.

CAYSA

From Page 1

Commonwealth Health Center shortly around 6am.

After about a 12-hour labor, the firsttime mother said she has nothing to say but a big thank you for bringing this wonderful gift to their family. Baby Caysa, she said, was born strong and

Lovely and Spencer have been couple for more than two years. They were married last Nov. 8.

As a licensed practical nurse, Lovely hopes that her daughter will also have that capacity to serve people. "I hope she will follow my footsteps and embrace the career I am proud of," she said, quickly adding, though, that she and the family will always support whatever Caysa will pursue later on.

Although excited to enter the world of motherhood, Lovely admits that she's a bit scared because she had no experience in taking care of a baby. "I am so happy...but at the same time I'm a bit scared," she said.

Lovely said it is her dream to have three children and plans to conceive a second child after three years. For now, Lovely plans to focus on her new role as housewife and mother. Her husband is a public school teacher.

"I feel so much love. Now, I have more reasons to be inspired and be happy with my life. I have a beautiful family that I will always protect and care about," Spencer said.

The new parents said the idea of a New Year's birth did not cross their minds and neither believed it would happen despite the many predictions of family and friends. Lovely's due date was the first week of January.

For them, the significance of Caysa's birth is much larger than the uniqueness of her birthday.

Besides the couples' family and friends, Caysa was also visited yesterday by the officials and representatives of Marpac, which recognized the newborn as the CNMI's 2013 New Year Baby. The couple was awarded boxes of baby supplies for Baby Caysa.

Lovely was attended at the hospital by Dr. Liane Mizgala and midwife Roca Sablan.

TEEN From Page 1

fled on foot toward Upper Miha.

Later, a car, described as a gray Toyota Sienna van 2011 or 2012 model, which was traveling north on the outer lane, struck the victim, dragging him about 50 feet. The van did not stop. Witnesses failed to get the license plate of the van, but observed damage to its front bumper.

After the van sped away, a 1998

Toyota Hilux 4X4 pickup truck later ran over the victim. The driver of the truck stopped and offered assistance to the victim.

An ambulance transported the victim to CHC's emergency room.

Police placed the case under further investigation.

Tarkong said complete descriptions of the two men who assaulted the victim were not available as of yesterday.

"More information will be provided as the investigation continues," he said.

High Court denies Fitial emergency motion for stay

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

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Supreme Court associate justice John A. Manglona denied yesterday the emergency motion filed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to postpone a (IR-Saipan) over a controversial nobid \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.

Manglona stated that Fitial has failed to show the "possibility of irreparable injury" if the hearing is not postponed.

Fitial filed the emergency motion for stay on Dec. 31. The show-cause hearing was slated yesterday in the Superior Court.

"Because we find that Fitial has failed to show the possibility of irreparable injury, if we do not take the extraordinary action of intervening into an ongoing Superior Court case, his emergency motion to stay the show cause hearing is hereby denied,"

stated the decision.

Fitial, in his Dec. 31 filing, requested the Supreme Court to issue an extraordinary writ of prohibition for the purpose of forbidding the Superior Court from proceeding with the hearing for the order to show show-cause hearing on a contempt cause against him. Fitial believes case filed by Rep. Janet Maratita that the Superior Court erred when it issued the order to show cause based on the "blatantly insufficient" declaration of Maratita.

Fitial's filing stated that Maratita's declaration also failed to comply with procedural requirements while the motion for an order to show cause advocates for an unconstitutional interpretation of the injunctions.

But according to Maratita, through her counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, there is "no emergency, no irreparable harm, and a stay is unwarranted" on the show cause hearing.

Quichocho, in his filing yesterday, stated that Fitial violated Supreme Court Rule 27-2. He said the order to show cause gives Fitial and SDLLC an opportunity to be heard why they should not be held in contempt for violating the Superior Court orders, and not to prevent them from exercising all the powers as government of the CNMI.

Quichocho added that the injunction orders were entered with the consent of Fitial He said Fitial's worry that the Superior Court will prevent him from exercising all of his powers as governor is premature.

On the allegations that Maratita's declaration is insufficient, Quichocho said this issue is moot as the court had already issued an order to show cause.

"The Maratita declaration contains facts supporting the order to show cause, which is the very reason that the court granted an order to show cause. More importantly, the Maratita declaration is further corroborated by Fitial's own text messages to Sen. Ayuyu, which Fitial completely failed to address in his opposition to the order of show cause," stated Quichocho in his filing yesterday.

AG: CNMI govt remains opposed to Fund receivership

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas said the CNMI government continues to oppose the appointment of a receiver for the NMI Retirement Fund, believing that it will further deplete funds that would otherwise go to the pension program's beneficiaries.

San Nicolas, in five-page document filed on Dec. 27, stated that it has not also been shown how a receiver will benefit the Fund and its members.

For the government, he said, appointing a receiver does nothing more than create an added expense for the agency and the position is not warranted in the case because the legal standard for appointing a receiver is not met.

But should the court decide to appoint a receiver, San Nicolas said the government is recommending Mark Heath to the position, so far the only individual contacted by the government willing to take the position if chosen. The federal court earlier sought from all parties the names of potential receivers

for the Fund, the submission of which was due last week.

One lawyer, Timothy Bellas, was earlier recommended by some retirees for the Fund receivership.

Betty Johnson, a plaintiff in an ongoing case in federal court, named her own nominees last week. Her primary recommendation is Hawaii-based lawyer William J. Plum and/or The Plum Law Office ALC, whom the court earlier considered when it first planned to appoint a trustee ad litem.

Johnson's second nominee is

Cabot Montannona LLP from Guam. Both nominees are reportedly willing to serve the position immediately if selected.

Meantime, the Fund's counsels, Braddock Huesman and Daniel J. Berman, submitted to court a four-page document clarifying the receivership issue. They claimed that the request for a receivership has become a source of confusion in some of the media reports being circulated.

They said the Fund's amended

that the Fund's "new" request is for a receivership over the CNMI Department of Finance and not over the Fund itself.

"This new Fund claim must be distinguished from the Fund's modest change in position to deny any receivership over the Fund. If a receivership over the Fund will facilitate the issue of remedies as against the debtor CNMI, the trustee ad litem for the Fund would agree to its appointment as the receiver so long

Rawlen M.T. Mantanona and/or answer and cross claim clarifies as such additional title and office would be at no further expense to the Fund," the Fund's counsels stated in their Dec. 27 filing.

> "Because the appointment of any other individuals or entities as the hypothetical receiver would presumably come at the added expense of the Fund, the Fund is unable to concur in the appointment of any other individuals or entities as a receiver. Likewise, the Fund is unable to suggest any other names for the possible position of receiver," they added.

Representative-elect to file initiative to prolong Fund program by 7 years

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Representative-elect Mariano Taitano (Ind.-Saipan) said he will be introducing an initiative that aims to significantly cut retirement benefits in a bid to prolong the lifespan of the NMI Retirement Fund by at least seven more years.

In an interview last week, Taitano said he will file the initiative in the first or second week after the Jan. 14 inauguration of the 18th House of Representatives.

"I want it [as soon as pos-

sible]...hit the ground running so to speak because time is of the essence," said Taitano, who is expected to head the House's Special Committee on Retirement Fund Issues.

Based on its current portfolio of over \$250 million, the Fund is projected to last only up to 2014. The next general election is November 2014.

Taitano said the initiative will perhaps coincide with the special election so that voters will have a chance to vote on an amendment to Article 3, Section 20 of the CNMI Constitution.

Taitano said he supports reducing benefits just to prolong the Fund program's lifespan. "I'm willing to sacrifice as high as 25 percent,"

He conceded that any measure to reduce Fund benefits is very unpopular among Fund members but he hopes that Fund members will agree to make sacrifices by agreeing to a reduction in benefits.

He said it was earlier projected that if the Fund reduces benefits by 25 percent, this will prolong the pension program by at least seven years.



MATH WIZARDS

The medal awardees gather for a group photo after the CNMI Math Court Regional competition for middle schools last month.



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INVITATION TO BID ITB13-GOV-056 Tinian Health Center Medical Equipment

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Purchase of Medical Equipment for the Tinian Health Center.

The project package will be available Thursday, December 20, 2012 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the package at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 11, 2013 to Mr. Roy Reyes of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB13-GOV-056". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, January 24, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time January 24, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 24, 2013 and must be received no later than January 31, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a hid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, February 1, 2013. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all nts on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable asset are only:

- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director Procurement and Supply, DOF



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PROVISION OF GEOTHERMAL CONSULTING SERVICES

RFP13-GOV-024

Governor's Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos are requesting qualifications from qualified firms according to the requirements of N.M.I.A.C. \S 70-30.3-210 to provide analysis and guidance in the examination of geothermal energy

Selected firm must be able to perform required consulting services in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands "CNMI") and will be required to: analyze existing geothermal data; develop a plan for test drilling to obtain further information; evaluate suitability of Commonwealth equipment for use in test drilling; evaluate drilling proposals; provide oversight on test drilling; and conduct analysis on results. Detailed information on required duties is provided in the Request for Proposals for Geothermal Consulting Services ("RFP").

The RFP is available and can be obtained from at Office of Capital Improvement - Juan Sablan Memorial Building - Capital Hill (670-664-2375). Submittals must follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements. Qualifications will be evaluated based on the factors shown in the table below.

> Weight Capacity of the firm and experience of the individuals who would be assigned to the project Proposed approach

Award shall be made to the firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 20, 2012 (ChST) to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408). All proposals must be sealed and marked RFP13-GOV-024 Geothermal Consulting Services Proposal on the forms provided and include an original and four copies and must be marked as: "RFP13-GOV-024 Proposal for Provision of Geothermal Consulting Services;" and be submitted no later than 10:00 AM, Friday, January 18, 2013 (ChST) to:

> Herman S. Sablan, Director Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base P.O. Box 510008 CK Saipan, MP 96950

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a notice of intent to bid (Notice of Intent to Bid"). Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. (Saipan Time) January 09, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and four copies of sealed proposal must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 18, 2013 (Saipan Time) and must be received no later than **January 30, 2013** (Saipan Time).

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial

/s/Herman S. Sablan, Director Procurement & Supply Division

PH consulate sets tentative schedule for NMI outreach

clarissa_david@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam is looking at having its first ever consular outreach service in the Northern Marianas in February, some three months after the closure of the Saipan consulate.

Vice Consul Pat Cortes confirmed in a phone interview yesterday the announcement of their "indicative" schedule for the consular outreach services this 2013, as follows: February Saipan; June – Saipan/Tinian; September - Rota; and December – Saipan.

Cortes said these target reach services have financial months were determined by implications for the Depart-Consul General Bayani V. Man- ment of Foreign Affairs in

gibin, with the exact dates to be announced once finalized so that Filipinos in the CNMI can avail of consular services such as passport renew-

al, report of birth, notary, and report of marriage.

"For each of those target months, we'll ask for authority from Manila to conduct these services," she said.

Cortes said consular out-

Manila, which include airfare accommodation expenses for the consular team that will fly to the CNMI.

She ex-

plained that the number of consulate staff that would comprise the team would depend on the approval from the Manila office and on the demand for consular services on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota

The demand. Cortes noted. would be determined based on the inquiries they received or will receive by phone call, email, or through social media.

The Guam Consulate will also coordinate with Filipino organizations and leaders from the Commonwealth to ask for an estimate of the number of individuals who need specific consular services.

"Then later on, we can determine which equipment to bring, how long we're going to conduct the consular outreach services, and the number of staff we'll bring," said Cortes, adding that she will sit down with

Mangibin during his return from Manila on Jan. 13 so they can iron out the details on the scheduled consular outreach

Cortes said they will also do their best and try to consider conducting the consular outreach services during any community event hosted by Filipino organizations in the Northern Marianas.

The consul thanked the Filipino community on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for their patience and understanding as they try to decide on the dates when they will extend consular services to the islands.

'We are definitely working on it and we are coordinating with DFA Manila. We'll communicate our plans to our Filipino community leaders once these plans are finalized," she told Saipan Tribune.

Cortes also thanked Filipinos in the Commonwealth for being actively engaged with the Guam consulate, informing the office of their concerns through any of the available communication avenues.

"Rest assured that we will continue our services to the Filipinos in the Marianas. The Guam consulate is always open to attend to their concerns," she added.

For more information, visit http://philippinesguam.org, Agana Pcg Facebook page, email pcgagana@gmail.com, or call 682-2222.

DPS chief says all officers, fire fighters dealt with accordingly

Safety commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro assured yesterday that all officers and fire fighters are dealt with according to their respective departments' rules, regulations, policies, and procedures.

Responding to KSPN2 reporter Tina Sablan's questions regarding allegations of certain incidents within the department, Ogumoro said that Sgt. Vicente Tagabuel is being used to his full capacity as a sergeant.

He said that Tagabuel is currently assigned as the supervisor, officer-in-charge of the Evidence Custodial Section. As for Tagabuel's upcoming jury trials, Ogumoro said, "People make mistakes and are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.'

Police officers Jesse Cepeda, Rhonda John, and Elias Saralu, meanwhile, were thoroughly investigated by the department's Internal Affairs unit, Ogumoro said.

"All cases investigated by Internal Affairs are dealt with fairly and treated with the outmost attention. The results of the investigation are confidential and any evidence found cannot by Internal Affairs. (DPS)

Acting Department of Public be used against the employee criminally. Although we are public servants, any individual under the constitution has their right to privacy," he said.

In cases where allegations are found to be substantiated by the Internal Affairs unit, recommendations are made to the commissioner's office on what the disciplinary action or outcome should be, Ogumoro said.

He said once those conditions are met, if the employee is still employed by the department, they return back to regular duty upon clearance from Internal Affairs and approval of the commissioner.

In other cases were the evidence is unsubstantiated, upon completion of the investigation, the results are forwarded to the commissioner's Office, Ogumoro said. Once the officer is cleared, he or she is re-instated and returns to regular duty.

After the cases are adjudicated, Ogumoro said he has several options within his authority.

In some cases, he said, officers are terminated, suspended, or undergo additional training or counseling, as recommended

"Villagers were alerted by

the two children and their fa-

Solomon Islander killed in crocodile attack

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—A woman from Tangarare area in West ther and went out searching Guadalcanal was killed by a but unfortunately could not crocodile on Christmas Eve.

The Guadalcanal Police headquarters confirmed the incident, saying it occurred around 5pm, Monday.

The woman was attacked when crossing recovered on the same day by Gove River.

Police said the mother, her husband, and children were crossing the river on their way to attend a Christmas Eve service when she was attacked.

According to reports, the father and children were helpless and could not save their mother.

locate the victim." Police say they received a call to atcanal woman tend to the incident around 9pm that

day and deployed officers to the area on Wednesday. The body was

RAMSI police with the support of their local counterparts.

The body was buried the following day after it was recovered.

Guadalcanal Police also confirmed that this is the fifth of such case of crocodile attack in the area.



CONTACT INFO

Email: pcgagana@gmail.com

Guam Consulate General

Web: http://philippines-

Facebook: Agana Pcg

guam.org

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

Civil Action No. 11-0241

Officials and staff of Marianas Health Services and Karidat Social Services pose for a group photo following last month's presentation of the toys collected through the annual Toys for Tots program in Chalan Kanoa.



"PURCHASE OF 5,000 PIECES OF PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES WITH CARBINER FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION – IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM"

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF T COMMONWEALTH. OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME T PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROXANNE DIAZ PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR



SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 14, 2013 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF 5.000 PIECES OF GYM TOWELS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION – IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, <u>LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE</u>. BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JUAN N. BABAUTA CEO, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.

/S/ ROXANNE DIAZ PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122 THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC POST OFFICE BOX 5222 SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950 FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,

TANINA M.

11-0037 SECOND

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 14, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 4564, situated in Kagman III, Saipan Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 805 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 11 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4179, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 11, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

<u>Terms and Conditions of Sale.</u> The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of December, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

THE ESTATE OF: VICENTE D. MAGOFNA, Decedent. NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION

Attorney for Petitioner/Claimant Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Robert Tenorio Torres

Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859

Fax: (670) 234-5749

IN THE MATTER OF

Attorney at Law Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758

Date: January 8, 2013 Time: 1:30 pm Judge: Honorable David A. Wiseman

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE VICENTE D. MAGOFNA:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rosalina M. Magoffia, Administratrix of the Estate of Vicente D. Magofna, has filed with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a Petition for Decree of Final Distribution. The attorney for Petitioner/Claimant Marianas Public land Trust is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Final Decree of Distribution has been set for the 8th day of January, 2013 at 1:30 pm, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 15th day of November, 2012.

Clerk of Court /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

>> West Guadalattacked during river crossing

Lions Club moving to create a new charter on Tinian

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

clarissa_david@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Tinian may soon charter a Lions Club before the end of the month following a successful orientation and initial meeting between district and regional officers and prospective Lions on the island.

Lions Club International Club district governor Herbie Perez of Guam led the orientation held at JC Café last Dec. 8, along with Region 2 chair Ladyvir Canape and Lions Paul Madriaga, Mario Mayuga, Linda Arriola, and Julie Perman of Saipan.

"Each visiting Lion gave their personal views and experience about their Lions Club activities and how it helps them grow as a person and as a volunteer servant to the community," a statement from Lions Club said.

In attendance on Tinian were Lizabeth Hofschneider, Vicky Sablan, Winnie Atalig, Ed Hofschneider, Mikaela Sanchez, Lot Bunao, Jackie Mendiola, and Kedar Shrestha.

Should the Tinian Lions Club push through, it will be the fourth club in the Northern Marianas, which is part of Region 2, according to Canape.

She disclosed in a phone interview yesterday that Tinian used to have a club named Tinian Taga Lions Club, which became later inactive.

Canape noted that a minimum of 20 members is needed before a Lions Club is chartered, and charter members can decide on the name of their organization.

She said that Tinian resident Lizabeth Hofschneider expressed confidence that they have the target number of charter members, although most of



Lions Club International Club officials and members have their picture taken with prospective members at the JC Café on Tinian.

them were unable to attend the December orientation due to prior commitments.

Canape, who is a member of the Saipan Unity Lions Club on Saipan, said she saw the enthusiasm and determination of the Tinian residents to charter a Lions Club on island during the meeting.

"It's good to know that this year, our dream to have a Lions Club on Tinian will finally materialize," she told Saipan Tribune, adding that the plan to charter a club has been in the works for more than three years.

Canape also pointed out that Saipan Marianas Lions Club president Paul Madriaga's relocation to Tinian would be helpful throughout the charter process.

"Hopefully in the future, we can also charter a Lions Club on Rota," she added.

Fiesta Resort recognizes outstanding staff members

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan held its annual Employee Appreciation Party in December 2012 to recognize staff members who have truly excelled, demonstrating their dedication to maintaining the best service and quality at the resort.

Attendees were treated to a sumptuous meal as well as raffle prizes, entertainment, and fun parlor games. Some friendly interdepartmental competition were seen in the "Fiesta's Got Talent" show, where different departments put together song and dance numbers and skits.

Resident manager Abner Acosta presented awards for outstanding supervisor and employee performance to the following staff members: Joseph Villamena, Nelma Sadian, Li



Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan resident manager Abner Acosta, left, poses with some of the awardees during the resort's annual Employee Appreciation Party in December 2012.

Xin Chen, Alevtina Kovalenko, Maricel Villasin, Melquiades De Ramos, Inocentes Batestil, Sho Nishii, and Lota Briosos.

also recognized staff who hard for the betterment of the Elena Soll, Christy Villaflor, Briosos, Noemi Catigan, Neltruly embodied the spirit of volunteerism this past year. The winners of the Spirit of

In addition, Fiesta Resort Fiesta is dedicated to working community and environment.

Volunteerism awards were: Ang, Cynthia Gugulan, Lota Lupe Flores, Lulu Thomson, Remy Rebellon, Wellington Rosalita Cabalbag. (PR)

ma Sadian, Felly Ocampo, and

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2013 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

Preliminary Matters

- Call to Order Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of December 13, 2012 minutes
- Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B.

- Conditional Use Application #2011-5393: Mr. Tolkach Evgenii is proposing to operate a synthetic skating rink on public land lot #054 H 01. This use is classified as Outdoor, Amusement and will be located next to the basketball court along Beach Road, Susupe, across from the House of Justice and north of Saipan World Resort This area is zoned as Public Resource.
- Enforcement Hearing on Notice of Violation (NOV) # 2011-4917, issued 10/24/12, to Mr. Zheng Shao-Wei, imposing a fine in the amount of \$2,250.00. The Zoning Administrator issued the NOV to Hong Ye Hardware for violating the terms and conditions of its permit #2010-0040 (issued 9/3/10) and approved site plan, by failing to provide parking as required in the permit and the zoning law. Hong Ye appeals the imposition of penalties by the Zoning Administrator and seeks more time to comply with the terms of its permit pursuant to section 1406 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.
- Old Business.
- **New Business**
- Office operations report
- Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

Enforcement – Notice of Violation #2011-4917

Date: January 17, 2013, Thursday

Time: 5:00 pm

Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Place:

Dandan Building, Saipan

The public is invited to attend a Zoning Board hearing on the appeal of Hong Ye Hardware from Notice of Violation (NOV) # 2011-4917, issued 10/24/12 to Mr. Zheng Shao-Wei, imposing a fine in the amount of \$2,250.00. The Zoning Administrator ssued the NOV to Hong Ye Hardware for violating the terms and conditions of its permit #2010-0040 (issued 9/3/10) and approved site plan, by failing to provide parking as required in the permit and the zoning law. Hong Ye appeals the imposition of penalties by the Zoning Administrator and seeks more time to comply with the terms of its permit pursuant to section 1406 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

Hong Ye Hardware is located along Beach Road, Susupe, on lot 008 H 28, across from Bank of Saipan. Interested parties may comment on this enforcement action orally or in writing at the

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Therese T. Ogumoro, Zoning Administrator

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING **EY Corporation dba: Tropical Ice**

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Tolkach Evgenii is proposing to operate a synthetic skating rink on public land lot #054 H 01. This use is classified as Outdoor, Amusement and will be located next to the basketball court along Beach Road, Susupe, across from the House of Justice and north of Saipan World Resort. This area is zoned as

Date: January 17th, 2013 Thursday

Time: 5:00 pm

Public Resource.

Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, January 16, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp , via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Airman says thanks for student's letter

Thursday was a special day for a third-grader at San Vicente Elementary School.

Senior Airman Anthony Cruz, who is serving in the U.S. Air Force, paid a visit to the school to thank a student who had written a letter to him as part of last month's CNMI Operation Home Front Support. Cruz, accompanied by his father Ray Cruz, stood in class to speak to some students about how honored he is to receive a letter and package of goods from Saipan.

Cruz said he is happy to return home for a visit and is most especially happy to return to SVES, the school he also attended many years ago. He shared how grateful he is to the people of the CNMI for the great things they do for

those serving in the military.

"Being away from home is what I feel all the time, but receiving goods from home makes it the best Christmas no matter where you are," he added.

Cruz is currently deployed and serving in South Korea. He is back on island to celebrate the holidays with his family. His father stated that Cruz arrived on island on Dec. 20 at 3am and "has been waiting for this moment. . . . This is what my son wanted to do."

When asked what message he has on behalf of all the men and women serving in the military, Cruz stated, "Any little thing makes a big difference. We appreciate all the support from home." (*PR*)



Ray Cruz stands in support of his son, Senior Airman Anthony Cruz, as he reads parts of the letter that meant a lot to him.



Senior Airman Anthony Cruz stands with the student and the letter that he received while on deployment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Water outage in Dandan Homestead, Obyan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is informing residents of Dandan Homestead and Obyan that an eight-hour water outage is scheduled for Jan. 4, 2013, from 7:30am to 3:30pm.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, GPPC, Inc. to replace gate valves

along Dandan Road across the Dandan Elementary School. This project is part of the San Vicente Service Area Extension and Exploring Drive-Fina Sisu Waterline Replacement Project.

The water outage will affect residents living in Dandan Homestead and Obyan areas. This

project is in preparation for the waterline upgrade in the area to improve system pressure and provide a more reliable water system.

CUC's operations team and GPPC, Inc. will be working hard to return service to customers in these affected areas as soon as possible. Because of the scale of

the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the construction sites.

CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project and the water service interruption. (CUC)



NEW OFFICERS

CONTRIBUTED BHOTO

The new set of officers of Hopwood Junior High School Student Council were sworn into office by Chief Justice Alexandro Castro during a recent induction ceremony on school campus.



Jan. 3, 2001

BOE ponders on AG recommendation

The Attorney General's Office has advised the State Board of Education against validating a decision rendered by several Public School System teachers in connection with the long-winded selection of one BOE Teacher Representative, citing that the number of teachers who turned in their ballots were not representative of the entire PSS faculty. According to PSS Asst. Legal Counsel Heather Kennedy, the legal opinion issued by the AGO was particular on stressing that the board should not honor the results of the teacher representative elections conducted last year.

BoG's 4Q dividends reach \$1.24M

Slowdown in the overall lending activities of the banking industry in the region failed to deter Bank of Guam from posting growth in the fourth quarter of 2000, with dividends paid to shareholders reaching \$1.24 million. Payment of common stock dividends of \$0.125 per share on more than 9.902 million shares outstanding was authorized by the bank's Board of Directors during its regular meeting on November 27, 2000. The payment of common stock dividends was made possible by the continued strong financial performance of the bank, according to BoG President and Chief Executive Officer Anthony A. Leon Guerrero in a statement.

Jan. 3, 2002

Marpi landfill project moves forward

The Division of Procurement and Supply made a final determination to award the contract for the construction of the Marpi Solid Waste Facility, as the government runs after time to put up an alternative dumpsite before Puerto Rico reaches its maximum capacity. A week after receiving the recommendation of a private evaluator, Procurement and Supply Director Herman S. Sablan decided in favor of the joint venture of Dick Pacific Corporation and Pacific Drilling Ltd. Sablan, in a notification of contract award addressed to the Public Auditor and the consortium's competitor that included the joint venture of Western Equipment Inc. and DRC Pacific Corporation, affirmed the findings of the evaluator that the DPC/PDL was a responsible contractor and, therefore, entitled to local preference.

Stay-limit TF to get new members?

Both legislative representatives to the stay-limit task force expressed support for the appointment of new members to the task force once the incoming Babauta administration assumes office. Sen. Thomas P. Villagomez and House Speaker-designate Heinz S. Hofschneider both said that, if the new administration deems it so, it can appoint new members to the panel. The two lawmakers were appointed to represent the 12th Legislature in the task force. "If it [Babauta administration] feels that putting people of its own choice will be more representative of its stance toward the issue, then it can do so," said Villagomez.

Jan. 3, 2003

House: Cut govt hours

House lawmakers have drawn up a legislative proposal to reduce government daily work hours from 8 to 7-a plan seen to realize \$19.5 million in savings for the government in one year. Money that will be saved from the proposed work-hour reduction will be used to address retirement pension arrears now estimated at a staggering \$90.5 million and possibly the tax refund and rebate payments. A draft of the legislative initiative states that reducing government work hours from 80 to 72 is necessary "because payroll and other personnel costs comprise over 70 percent of the total government budget, leaving non-personnel funds at a bare minimum."

Ex-PSS employee sues Superior Court, NMHC, others

A retired employee of the Public School System who has suffered from brain damage has filed a lawsuit in federal court that not only seeks monetary relief from those she is suing but also seeks to test the legal system in the CNMI. Yonami Kochi, through lawyer Jane Mack of the Micronesian Legal Services Corp., has sued the CNMI Superior Court, Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Triple J Saipan, Inc. and lawyer Michael White. In the civil case now with the U.S. District Court, Kochi said the defendants violated her civil rights guaranteed by the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution when Lizama signed an order that imposed a levy on her bank account that held her benefits from the NMI Retirement Fund.

Buckingham petition denied; High Court issues 2 more opinions

On Monday, Dec. 31, 2012, the Commonwealth Supreme Court issued rulings in *In re Buckingham*, Aurelio v. Camacho, and Syed v. Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc.

In an unpublished opinion, the Supreme Court denied former Commonwealth attorney general Edward T. Buckingham's petition for rehearing of the High Court's opinion denying his petition for writs of mandamus and prohibition. The High Court denied the petition because Buckingham failed to point to any facts or law that the court overlooked or misapprehended in its previous opinion.

Foreign townhouse

Marites Aurelio and two other plaintiffs filed a complaint with the CNMI Department of Labor against Bienvendia Camacho alleging numerous violations of the Nonresident Worker Act and

HONOR ROLL

Saipan Community School's 4th Quarter Honor Roll:

6[™] GRADE

A Honor 3.50-3.99: Min Ju Kang, Ellen Lee, Haruya Eda, Annabelle Sablan, Mimi Sakano B Honor 3.00-3.49:Ye Ji Yim, Ye Da Yim, Vicent Tudela

7[™] GRADE

A Honor: Jae Hyun Park, Harry Woo, Paul Heo, Isaac Jang, Joo Young Kim B Honor: Nathanael Lim, Yun Pyo Jeon, Judy Kim, Jae Hee Lee, Rachel Kim, Prudencio Cabrera

8[™] GRADE

A Honor: Yu Bin Park, Kevin Lee, Shirley Qian B Honor: Daniel Jang, Maddie Santos, Yoon Hee Kim, Elnathan Wong

Alien Labor Rules & Regulations. The Department of Labor investigated and awarded Aurelio damages and attorney fees. When Camacho did not pay, the plaintiffs sought assistance from the Superior Court, which ultimately ordered Camacho to convey to the plaintiffs her townhouse in the Philippines. Camacho appealed, arguing that the court could not make transfer ownership of property situated outside the Commonwealth and, in any event, the property was exempted from this kind of order because she owned it solely in her own right.

The Supreme Court ruled that the trial court could order Camacho to transfer her Philippines townhouse because it had personal jurisdiction over her. A court has personal jurisdiction over someone when the person lives in the same jurisdiction as

The High Court likewise concluded that Camacho's their case when it should have

Anyone who has had a child die

in their family is invited to an

informal meeting on Tuesday,

Jan. 8, 2013, with the intent of

eventually establishing a local

chapter of The Compassionate

Friends, a nonprofit self-help

bereavement support organiza-

tion for families that have expe-

The mission of The Com-

passionate Friends is to assist

families toward the positive

resolution of grief following

the death of a child of any

age and to provide informa-

tion to help others to be sup-

portive. Today more than 600

chapters serving all 50 states

plus Washington D.C., Puerto

Rico, and Guam offer friend-

ship, understanding, and hope

to bereaved parents, siblings,

rienced the death of a child.

townhouse property was not exempt from being transferred to satisfy a judgment. Rejecting Camacho's reading of the exemption statute, the Supreme Court held that the statute exempted jointly owned land from attachment by a court, but permitted courts in some situations to attach property a person solely owns.

Pleading standard

Rabby F. Syed, Jose P. Kiyoshi, and Felipe Q. Atalig appealed the Superior Court's dismissal of their lawsuit alleging that local gasoline retailers engaged in price fixing and other unlawful business practices. In dismissing the complaint, the Superior Court found that the plaintiffs' complaint failed to state any claim upon which relief could be granted.

On appeal, the plaintiffs claimed the trial court applied a federal standard to dismiss

Compassionate Friends of Saipan sets first organizational meeting

and grandparents and other

family members during the

natural grieving process after

6pm to 7:30pm at the NMPA-

SI building on Middle Road in

The meeting will be from

a child has died.

applied the local standard. The Supreme Court agreed, holding that the trial court erred when it applied United States Supreme Court case law to interpret a local civil procedure rule.

The Supreme Court then analyzed the federal pleading standard to determine whether to adopt it. The High Court explained that the federal pleading standard, also known as the "plausibility" standard, requires plaintiffs to file more detailed complaints than the existing Commonwealth standard in order to survive a motion to dismiss. The High Court ultimately chose not to adopt the federal standard because of a concern that the stricter standard would "prematurely close the doors of justice" to plaintiffs with meritorious cases

After declining to adopt the "plausibility" standard, the High Court reaffirmed and clarified the local pleading standard, holding that com-

Garapan. For more informa-

tion, call Jill Derickson at 287-

5337 or e-mail jilld@pticom.

com. To learn more about The

Compassionate Friends, visit

their website at www.compas-

sionatefriends.org. (PR)

allegations on every material point necessary to sustain a recover" or "allegations from which an inference fairly may be drawn that evidence on these material points will be introduced at trial." The Supreme Court noted that this standard requires the pleading of enough direct and indirect allegations to give defendants fair notice of the nature of the case against them.

While it reaffirmed the local pleading standard, the High Court decided to modify part of the local standard, which allowed complaints to survive a motion to dismiss unless defendants could show that plaintiffs

plaints must contain "direct could prove "no set of facts" to prevail on a claim. The Court found this standard too lenient because it provides insufficient notice to defendants.

Applying the local pleading standard to plaintiffs' complaint, the High Court held that the plaintiffs satisfied the standard regarding their price fixing and unjust enrichment claims but did not satisfy the standard as to any of their other claims. The High Court also upheld the Superior Court's denial of the plaintiffs' request for leave to amend the claims that were dismissed.

The Supreme Court's opinions can be found at http://www. cnmilaw.org/supreme_12.htm. (NMI Judiciary)

Pacific Oriental Incorporated dba POI Aviation invites qualified US workers to apply for the following

Assistant Manager, Passenger Service (1)

As/AS degree with 6 years of progressive airline passenger service and supervisory experience. Supervises passenger service agents and liaises with customer airlines to resolve concerns regarding flight handling operations. Serves as Ground Security Coordinator and trainer for various airline passenger service systems. Must be knowledgable with FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations.

Lead Cargo Agent (2)
High school diploma or its equivalent with 4 years experience as cargo handler.
Handles and accepts cargo according to IATA, FAA, TSA, USPS, local airport, airlines and company regulations. Heads shift or work projects as directed by Manager. Prepares documents for out-going and transfer cargo. Must be able to operate forklift and other cargo handling equipment. Must be able to lift a minimum of 70 lbs. Must be proficient in the use of AFIS System or 360.

Manager, Aircraft Maintenance and Ground Support Equipment

AS degree in Aviation Maintenance Engineering with 10 years progressive experience as licensed A&P (airframe & power plant) Technician. Oversees the activities of Aircraft Maintenance Technicians and supervises all aircraft repairs and services. Must possess a current US FAA A&P License. Must be certified in various aircraft-type maintenance. Must be knowledgeable with FAA,ICAO, IATA, local airport and airline regulations.

Manager, Flight Operations & Ramp Service (1)

AA/AS degree with 8 years of progressive experience in airline ramp operations and flight dispatch. Directs and coordinates activities of the ramp and flight dispatch operations in accordance with the airline policy and FAA, TSA, local airport regulations and established company policies and procedures. Must be US FAA licensed as an Aircraft Dispatcher.

Ramp Agent (1)

High school diploma or its equivalent with 2 years experience in ramp, cargo loading and unloading operations. Operates equipment for loading and off-loading baggage/cargo to and from the aircraft for both commercial and freight aircrafts. Must be able to operate specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and ramp operations Must be able to lift a minimum of 70 lbs.

Senior Load Planning Specialist (1)

AA/AS degree with 4 years progressive experience in load planning with airline specific certification as load planner. Ensures aircraft load is distributed and secured in accordance with aircraft weight and balance requirements ensuring that aircraft's operational and structural limitation are not exceeded. Prepares monthly flight activity reports. Must be able to perform manual weight and balance calculations

DEADLINE: JANUARY 8, 2013

Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Applications may be obtained at the POI Aviation Office.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

EVENTS MANAGER

Our Resort is seeking a motivated and experienced Events Manager who will build and strengthen guest relationships while driving event sales and overseeing all event bookings, event staff, and event operations.

We are looking for an individual who is highly creative, articulate, outgoing, and with the ability to provide excellent customer service and staff management in a fun, fast-paced and exciting environment. The candidate must be flexible, friendly, and hardworking and also enjoy interacting with both children and adults. His/her past experience should

As the Events Manager, the responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Working with the Resort Management Team to create, host and promote
- Overseeing all event bookings and ensuring superior service to our guests Driving community relationships and event sales
- · Performing the functions of event team members when necessary

Qualifications:

- Minimum Education: Associate's Degree preferably in Sales, Marketing
- Minimum Experience: Two years of experience in a related field
- Ability to develop and market new event ideas
- Ability to work nights, weekends, and holidays Organizational, follow-up, and multitasking skills are a must

GUEST RELATIONS MANAGER (China Market)

COSMOS DISTRIBUTING CO. LTD.

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the position of:

Sales Representative

Associate's degree in Sales & Marketing or Accounting with a

minimum of 3 years experience in sales. Proven skills in product

marketing and providing excellent customer service are required.

Must provide for his/her own reliable transportation for out-of-

office work activities and must also be able to meet monthly sales

targets. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries are an advantage. Available to work on evenings, holidays, weekends.

Backgrounds checks and pre-employment drug testing will be

required prior to employment. Salaries will be commensurate with

qualifications and experiences. For applications to be considered,

they should be sent to hrd@cosmosdistributing.com not later than

We are Equal Opportunity Employer

Our Resort is looking for a Chinese-speaking (Mandarin) candidate with strong interpersonal, communication and presentation skills who will help ensure the daily smooth running of the hotel by taking care of its guests and being a point of contact for, both Chinese guests and staff.

As the Guest Relations Manager, the responsibilities include but are not

- · Working with the management team to provide focused attention on
- Promoting and developing loyalty from Chinese hotel guests by reacting positively to their individual needs and providing a high level of personalized guest service
- Direct any necessary changes to ensure seamless guest service
- Dealing with guest relation issues

Qualifications:

- Minimum Experience: Two years of experience in a related field/similar role or in a high volume hospitality environment at supervisory level or as a Front Office Supervisor
- Advance or native Chinese Mandarin language speaker and writer
- Ability to work flexible hours including nights, weekends, and holidays Excellent communication, organizational, and multitasking skills are a must

- Minimum Education: Associate's Degree preferably in Sales, Marketing
- Team player

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_frs@fiestasaipan.com. Application Forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the South Wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 30, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

> Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.



Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) SUPERVISOR, SALES ASSOCIATE (CHINA MARKET) Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years progressive experience at supervi-

sory level and is exceptionally self-motivated. Must be able to supervise sales efforts to achieve and exceed assigned sales goals. Must be skilled at interpreting and communicating company objectives in order to maximize team sales revenue. Must be able to read, write and speak English and Mandarin Chinese. Able to work a varied schedule including weekends and holidays

(1) SALES ASSOCIATE (CHINA MARKET)

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Must have at least 2 years previous work experience in retail sales. Must be able to provide exemplary customer service, have a team player mindset and an exceptional cash handling accuracy. Effective communication skills, high energy level, patience, stress tolerance and persuasiveness are essential competencies. Must be able to read and write in English and Mandarin Chinese. Must be able to work a varied schedule including weekends and late night shifts.

(3) MASSAGE THERAPIST

Qualifications: Must have gone through training in a vocational school or acquired at least 2 years of related on-the-job experience (Shiatsu, Oil and Foot Massage) in a spa environment. Ability to speak Mandarin Chinese is an advantage. Must be able to adapt to changes in work assignments and willing to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_frs@fiestasaipan.com. Application Forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the South Wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 31, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Opinion



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EDITORIAL

John Kerry's climate change credentials

en. John Kerry, President Obama's nominee for secretary of state, may not be able to bring peace to the Middle East, end enduring trade and currency disputes with China or mend fences with all the anti-American leaders in Latin America. But he may be capable of redirecting the debate over an issue of equal or greater importance: climate change.

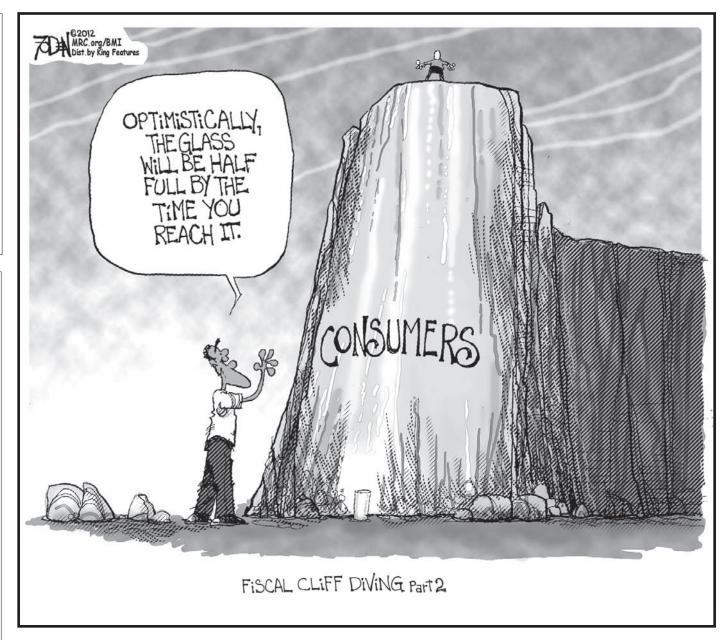
Kerry is among the most forward-thinking members of the U.S. Senate when it comes to understanding both the threats of and the practical responses to global warming. He's struggled to bring along the Senate, which rejected his attempt to win passage of a cap-and-trade bill in 2010, but Kerry's new post should give him expanded opportunities to lead.

That's not because of the State Department's role in approving the controversial Keystone XL pipeline to carry oil from Canada's tar sands to refineries in Texas. Although many environmentalists see this as a defining decision in the fight against climate change, Kerry, presuming his nomination is approved, will arrive too late in that process to play much of a role. And although his expertise should prove valuable during negotiations to create a badly needed successor to the Kyoto Protocol, which the United Nations is aiming to complete in 2015, Kerry can't force the Senate to ratify it.

Yet Kerry can make a difference when it comes to bilateral efforts by the U.S. and other countries. The U.S. has already entered multiple such partnerships, including with India and China, whose rapid development threatens the entire globe. These deals, which include research partnerships on clean energy and stepped-up loans for renewable energy from the Export-Import Bank, will make only a small dent in the problem, but they should be strengthened and aggressively pursued by Kerry. He should also focus on building environmental "coalitions of the willing"—such as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition in which the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Sweden, Bangladesh and Ghana have teamed up to limit key pollutants.

The United States has a curious blind spot when it comes to climate change. An October report from Munich Re, the world's largest reinsurer, stated that "nowhere in the world is the rising number of natural catastrophes more evident than in North America." It went on to note that although every continent has seen an increase in weather-related disasters over the last 30 years, none surpasses our own, which has seen a fivefold increase in such phenomena since 1980. Yet despite an estimated \$1 trillion in damage from these disasters, Americans have so far been unwilling to take the needed steps to head off an even worse future. Kerry won't change that by himself. But he can be a catalyst for wisdom and reform.

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Spiritual but not religious

By CORINNA NICOLAOU

"m a "None." That's what pollsters call Americans who respond on national surveys to the question "What is your religious affiliation?" with a single word: "None."

According to the Pew Research Center, the ranks of the Nones have ballooned in recent years, making the fastest-growing religious affiliation no affiliation.

Between 1972 and 1989, about 7 percent of Americans identified as having no formal religious affiliation. However, between 1990 and 2012, that figure jumped to 19.6 percent. Among people under age 30, just over 30 percent say they have no religious affiliation. At the same time, the percentage of the U.S. population that identifies as Christian has experienced a steady decline, and other faiths have experienced modest growth at best.

The number of religious services I attended growing up could fit on one hand, with enough fingers left over for a peace sign. I hardly know a Catholic from a Protestant, let alone the belief systems of other world religions.

Granted, not all Nones are as ignorant about religion as I am. Some grew up attending church but distanced themselves from their faiths as adults. Others may still attend religious services occasionally but do not identify as members of any one religion. Then there are those, like me, whose lack of religion was handed down to them. Both of my parents grew up with a religious affiliation but were Nones by the time I entered the picture.

I married a fellow None, and you could call us a "mixed-faith" None couple: My broken affiliation is with Christianity, while my husband's is with Judaism.

Some might assume that Nones do not believe in God, but fewer than 15 percent consider themselves atheists. For the most part, it seems, Nones are curious about spirituality—even deeply interested in it. We may have rejected organized religion, but we embrace spiritual feelings. We may believe in a higher being, though we might call it "the universe" or "the divine intelligence that created all this." Most of us have reverence for a power greater than ourselves and crave a deeper understanding of its significance.

Robert Putnam and David Campbell, who discuss religious trends and attitudes in their book "American Grace: How Religion

Divides and Unites Us," characterize the sudden rise of the Nones as the most significant trend in our country's religious landscape in the last 50 years. They found that, for the most part, Nones mirror the population at large in terms of education, social standing, gender and race.

So what is causing this seemingly sudden religious disassociation among a large subset of the American population? The only explanation that seems to make sense, the authors suggest, is political. The one characteristic many Nones share is that they lean left politically.

Putnam and Campbell say the rise in Nones appears to be tied to the perception, particularly among young people, that religion and conservative politics go hand in hand. This sounds about right to me. I can't wrap my head around a God who is more concerned with our private parts than with the content of our hearts.

But are we the ones who are missing out? For centuries, religion has been a tool to make people happier, kinder, more inclined to see the big picture. It's been credited with keeping believers grounded, reducing anxiety and the compulsions that often lead to self-destructive behavior. In times of great difficulty, it may be the only thing that keeps a person afloat until things get better. Religion is touted as a doorway to the eternal, helping us understand our role in the cosmos.

A couple of years ago, I found myself thinking about religion and wondering "What are they doing in there? What do they believe?" as I passed houses of worship.

So I took the "Worship Directory" from my local paper—an entire page listing the places of worship in my community—and started making a plan. There were denominations I recognized but knew little about, and many more that I'd never heard of, such as the Inter-Denominational Charismatic and Nazarene. There were more than 50 options.

I decided to visit all of them. If these places offer tools to help their congregations navigate life and make the human experience more meaningful, then what do I have to lose? Regardless of whether I eventually "choose" a religion or remain a None, I do hope to gain a special kind of wisdom.

Corinna Nicolaou is a writer living in Washington state. Follow her journey into religion at OneNoneGetsSome.com. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

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Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of ances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not the right

500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Domestic abuse and alcoholism

recently saw a spot on KSPN whose aim was to raise awareness about domestic violence and sexual abuse. It was a touching and well-meant presentation, but a point was missed: that the vast majority of domestic violence and sexual abuse cases are caused by someone who is drunk. To leave alcohol out of the equation is to ignore the touchstone of heartbreak; most of these incidents would not have occurred with a sober, rational, person. But a person who is intoxicated is not rational.

Drunkenness is a bit like insanity: the person is not fully conscious, nor cognizant of the damage he is doing to others, nor to himself. The next day, if he is sober, there may be feelings of guilt, shame, or remorse, but not always. If the person is addicted to alcohol, then it is just a matter of time before the next violent, or sexual, assault happens. When it does, you will read about it in this newspaper. "Repeat offender," the story will say.

This is not to imply that anyone who drinks alcohol is an alcoholic, or that getting hammered on New Year's Eve is a sign of alcoholic behavior. There is a vast difference between social drinking and alcoholic drinking. As well, people who are not knowledgeable about alcohol addiction cannot easily understand alcoholic behavior, nor how overwhelmingly compelling and destructive it is.

fine, open face, and it was difficult to imagine that he ever had a problem with alcohol. Alice, of Hispanic origin, had a sweet face and toothy grin. She worked at the local Fox affiliate and liked to sing. So, Tommy, Alice, and I sat in the sunny church kitchen and drank coffee and talked about a recovery musical. Alice asked me if I knew anything about AA, or alcoholism. "Not really," I told her. "A civilian!" laughed Tommy.

They said that I should attend some AA meetings and listen to the stories, about people's experiences with alcohol, and how they got into "the program."

To be honest, I didn't want to go to any meetings. I didn't want to be seen with a bunch of drunks; but when Alice took me to a 7pm meeting, I stepped into another world.

In the front of the meeting room was a big, comfortable chair. The invited speaker (that is, a recovering alcoholic) would sit and "qualify." This meant that he (or she) would tell his story about his descent into alcohol addiction, the harrowing experiences he had, and how he was able to find "a bridge back" to life. This "bridge" refers to the AA program and the support one finds in "the rooms."

Facing the speaker were approximately 20 people in recovery, seated around the room in gray metal folding chairs, each with a cup of



There is an old Native saying:

The man takes a drink.

The drink takes a drink.

The drink takes the man.

In 1990 I became a deacon at a Presbyterian church on East 74th Street in New York City. One of my duties was to assist the church's outreach programs. As well as providing food and clothing to the needy, the church also hosted many AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) meetings. There were also meetings for people in recovery from other addictions, such as narcotics, but these were few in number compared to AA.

When I first joined the church and attended Sunday worship, I was unaware of these meetings. But, during the week, I noticed strangers going up and down the stairs, and into various rooms, from which laughter could occasionally be heard. When I asked one of the volunteers what was going on, she told me that they were AA meetings.

I didn't know anything about Alcoholics Anonymous, but I was soon to learn quite a bit.

That is because one day the pastor, who knew of my background in music and theater, asked me if I would work with some people in recovery do a musical show. She said that a show about addiction would not only help those recovering from alcoholism, but could be an important tool for educating the community about substance abuse. She also said that, within the AA church community, there were many fine singers and actors. This was an intriguing invitation. I thought for a moment and then said, "Well, if I can help, then of course."

The next afternoon I met with a couple of people from AA; a young guy named Tommy M. and a woman named Alice H. Tommy was a good looking young man with short dark hair. He had a

coffee. Those who attended were a diverse group: young, old, male, female, rich, poor, and even some celebrities. (I am not supposed to say who they are; this would be breaking their anonymity).

This particular day, the speaker was a middle-aged woman named Sandy. She had lost almost everything through alcohol, and had hit bottom. She said she was drinking so much that even to go out to the ATM took strategic planning. She had to make herself appear as presentable as possible before stepping outside her building. Even then she wore dark sunglasses and a baseball cap pulled down low. Then, once she got some money, she would race back to her apartment and drink. Sandy also talked about her favorite glass, the one she always drank from. Alcoholics always have a favorite glass.

After Sandy had finished her qualification, others raised their hands to share their experiences, which were equally gut-wrenching. Everyone, it seemed, had come back from a near-death experience. Heads nodded as tales were told. I was moved. These were real people who were being brutally honest about what they had gone through. They were baring their souls. "You're as sick as your secrets," one said.

At the end of the meeting, everyone stood in a circle, joined hands, and said the Serenity Prayer.

God, grant me the serenity

To accept the things I cannot change,

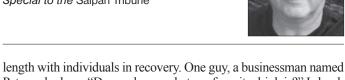
The courage to change the things I can

And the wisdom to know the difference.

When the prayer was finished, the meeting was over and many rushed outside to smoke a cigarette on the sidewalk.

Over the next few weeks I learned more about the insidious disease called alcoholism. I took notes for the show, and talked at

By RUSS MASONSpecial to the Saipan Tribune



length with individuals in recovery. One guy, a businessman named Peter, asked me, "Do you know what my favorite drink is?" I shook my head. "The next one."

Eventually, with the help of Tommy, Alice, and others, I wrote and directed a musical revue titled *Stirred*, *Not Shaken*. We rehearsed for six weeks, and the production got standing ovations—not just from those in recovery, but from the "civilians" as well. It was a humbling experience, one which I will never forget.

So for those in the CNMI who struggle with alcohol or have an alcoholic friend or relative, here are a few things you might want to know

First, it is the only disease (and it *is* a disease) that is self-diagnosed. No doctor can tell you if you are an alcoholic; only you can do that. But the doctor can certainly assess any physiological damage and there are a variety of medical conditions associated with alcohol abuse: malnutrition, alcoholic cirrhosis, hepatitis, jaundice, heart disease, cancer, and pancreatitis.

Second, although alcoholism is a disease, some people mistakenly think it is a failure of character or will power. This is not the case. If you were to get the flu, it was not because you lacked the will power to resist it. But many alcoholics feel ashamed of their disease; they feel stigmatized and powerless and they *are* powerless over this disease. So they drink to make themselves feel better, or numb, and the sordid cycle begins again.

Third, there is no cure. An alcoholic may get better, but he will never get well. This is because once the receptors in the human brain have been switched on, they can never be switched off. The disease is always present, waiting for the next drink. These open receptors create a "craving"—whether it is alcohol, tobacco, heroin, or sex. All of these are addictions, or cravings. And if a person is addicted to one of these, they are probably addicted to one or more of the others as well

Fourth, the disease has been called "cunning, baffling, and powerful." It is as though there is a demon living inside the alcoholic's spirit, urging him to drink. "Sure! You can drink! No problem! It'll be OK!" says the disease. It's a lie, and the devil is the master of lies. When someone is in an intoxicated state, they are no longer steering the car. They are in the back seat while alcohol is behind the wheel, speeding to the cliff's edge. I heard many people state flatly, "My disease wants me dead."

Fifth, many mistakenly think that if an alcoholic stops drinking for a few weeks, or months, or years, the disease goes away. This is not true; it never goes away. It is always there, patiently waiting for the alcoholic to "pick up" again. Staying sober is not easy. As one man, in his seventh year of sobriety told me, "Every day is as difficult as the first. That is why I go to meetings. I get strength and hope from the others. I may drink tomorrow, but I am sober today, and that is what matters. One day at a time."

To get someone to face their alcoholism is a mighty task, because most alcoholics will emphatically deny they have a drinking problem. Even when faced with a long list of alcoholic events, they will still deny them. "I can handle it!" they will say. "Leave me alone."

That is the disease talking.

The alcoholic needs to be convinced that drinking is ruining his life, and usually the lives of others. Deep down, they know this but will cover for the disease and make excuses. That is typical because the disease is always present and must protect itself.

However, for those brave souls who will finally admit that yes, they have a problem with alcohol, there are institutions around the CNMI which will help. The Community Guidance Center is one such place (http://cgcspn.net. Click on Programs, then Addiction Services).

By explaining about alcoholism, I am certainly not excusing the horrible things that people do when they are drunk: beating up a wife or girlfriend, sexually abusing a child, or any of the other terrible things that drunks do. My point is simply this: if you can get the offender into AA and to stick with it, there may be hope. If the person continues to drink, there is no hope: the violence and abuse will, unfortunately, continue.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2013 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲86° **▼7**5°

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph

▲ 87° ▼ 76°



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼76°

Mostly cloudy with

isolated showers.

▲ 86° **▼** 75°

Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

▲87° ▼76°

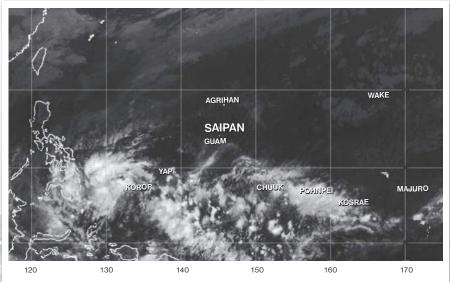
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	≜ 88	▼ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 76
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	≜ 88	▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	≜ 85	▼81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86	▼ 81
Kosrae	Showers	≜ 86	▼81
Maiuro	Showers	▲ 87	₩80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 61
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 29 ▼ 7
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 52
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 70
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼45
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 42
Manila	Thundershowers	s ≜ 85 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 98 ▼ 69
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 67
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 34 ▼ 28
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 41 ▼33
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 45
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 36 ▼ 21
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 41
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 36
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 44
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 20 ▼ 7
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 44 ▼ 30

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line north of the Mariana Islands extends southwestward from 25N145E to beyond 130E at 17N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and north of this boundary to beyond 25N. A tropical disturbance centered near 5N130E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Republic of Palau to the west of a line from 11N134E to 4N134E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Koror and Yap to the south of a line from 6N136E to 7N144E to 5N150E. Convergent trade winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in an area from Chuuk across Pohnpei to near Kosrae within 150 miles of a line from 7N150E to 5N162E. A surface trough just east of Butaritari runs from 1N174E to 6N177E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are mainly southeast of Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 3N173E to 6N180. Surging trade winds near Wake Island are causing cloudiness and widely scattered showers north of a line from 15N160E to 21N180 to beyond 25N.

Tides						
Saipan Harbor						
5:04 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet			
11:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet			
6:19 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet			
11:17 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet			

Washington, DC Partly Cloudy ▲ 41 ▼32

Mo
day
day
turday
nday
onday

Moonrise/Moonset					
Today	10:54 PM	10:29 AM			
Friday	11:47 PM	11:10 AM			
Saturday		11:53 AM			
Sunday	12:42 PM	12:39 AM			
Monday	1:40 PM	1:29 AM			

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the following

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
- A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRÁVELOGUE** Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies
- Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- otos should be original and not copyrighted. Contrib utors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures. \blacksquare Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb). ■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),
- the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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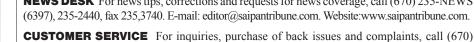
- Fax: (670) 235-3740 Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950 ■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center
- To check if contributions are 6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JAN. 1, 2013

- DE		TUR			ZĀLDĪ	RIVAL	
SAIPAN-GUA	M (GUM)		GUAM (GUM))-SAIPAI	N	
UA5070		5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069		3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4.40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5	UA5071		7:55am	Daily
UA5068		9:15am	Daily	UA5073		10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
			,	UA5075			
UA5074		12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7			2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076		4:00pm	Daily	UA5077		6:25pm	Daily
UA5078		7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-NAR	ITA (NR	Τ)		NARITA (NR	T)-SAIPA	M	
DL287		8:40am	Daily	DL298		3:00pm	Daily
DL285		9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7	DL286		12:15am+1	
DL297		7:20pm	Daily	DL288		1:15am+1	Daily
CAIDAN_OCA	VA /VIV	\		OCAVA (VIV	-CAIDAI		
SAIPAN-OSA 07119		6:40am	Daily	OSAKA (KIX) 07120		2:20am+1	Daily
02119	4.UUdIII	0.4VdIII	Dally	UZIZU	9.50µ111	Z.ZUdIII+I	Ddily
SAIPAN-BUS	AN (PUS	5)		BUSAN (PUS			
0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7	0Z607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6
0Z608	3:30am	6:40am	3	0Z607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2
SAIPAN-SEO	III (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)	-SAIPAN		
07606		6:00am	1	0Z603		2:20pm	Daily
07606		6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			2:20am+1	
0Z119		11:20am	Daily via KIX	0Z605	,	1:00am+1	7
0Z604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	0Z605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
SAIPAN-SHA	NGHAI (PVG)		SHANGHAI (PVG)-SA	IPAN	
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJ	IING (PE	EK)		BEIJING (PE	K)-SAIP	AN	
MU7108		5:55am	1, 3, 5	MU7107		1:50am+1	2, 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUA	N7HAII	(CAN)		GUANZHOU ((CAN)-S	AIPAN	
3U8646		7:30am	2. 6	3U8645	• • •	3:00am+1	1. 5
			_, -		,		,, -
SAIPAN-VLAI				VLADIVOSTO			
XF1734	6:30am	12:30pm	5	XF1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4
SAIPAN-MAN	IILA (MN	IL)		MANILA (MN	IL)-SAIP	AN	
0Z606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via I
0Z606/701		11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	DL172/288		1:15am+1	Daily via N
UA5070/191		10:00am	6 via GUM	UA190/5077		6:25pm	3, 6 via Gl
UA5070/191		10:00am	3		10:55am	,	
			-	UA190/5079		,	3, 6 via Gl
DL287/173		10:25pm	Daily via NRT	0Z702/605	,	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	0Z702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	
0Z604/703	,	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	11-E0nm	7:55am+1	via GUM 2, 5 via GU
			VIA OUWI	UA104/JUI1	11.370111	1.JJaili+1	L, J VIA UL
SAIPAN-HON				HONG KONG			D. 11 .
0Z606/721		11:50am	1 via ICN	0Z746/603		2:20pm	Daily via I
0Z606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	07722/605	,	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3·1∩nm	10:30pm	via ICN 1, 5 via GUM	0Z722/605	ı.ispm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 via ICN
					11·2E	10-40	
0Z604/749	s.zupm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071		10:40am+1	
				UA180/5077	II:Z5DM	6:25pm+1	o via GUM

(6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure: ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival, The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA F	requency	Airline	ETD	ETA Fr	equency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan			,	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota			,	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	TILL ILS	10.50	10.70	Dully
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota	10.20	10.40	Dully	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam			,	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
			<i>'</i>	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50		'
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily			15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2013 **13**

Business

Cliff avoided: Congress staves off tax hikes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Past its own New Year's deadline, a weary Congress sent President Barack Obama legislation to avoid a national "fiscal cliff" of middle class tax increases and spending cuts late Tuesday night in the culmination of a struggle that strained America's divided government to the limit.

The bill's passage on a bipartisan 257-167 vote in the House sealed a hard-won political triumph for the president less than two months after he secured reelection while calling for higher taxes on the wealthy.

Moments later, Obama strode into the White House briefing room and declared, "Thanks to the votes of Republicans and Democrats in Congress I will sign a law that raises taxes on the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans while preventing tax hikes that could have sent the economy back into recession."

He spoke with Vice President Joe Biden at his side, a recognition of the former senator's role as the lead Democratic negotiator in final compromise talks with Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

In addition to neutralizing middle class tax increases and spending cuts taking effect with the new year, the legislation will raise tax rates on incomes over \$400,000 for individuals and \$450,000 for couples. That was higher than the thresholds of \$200,000 and \$250,000 that Obama campaigned for. But remarkably, in a party that swore off tax increases two decades ago, dozens of Republicans supported the bill at both ends of the Capitol.

The Senate approved the measure on a vote of 89-8 less than 24 hours earlier, and in the interim, rebellious House conservatives demanded a vote to add significant spending cuts to the measure. But in the end they retreated.

The measure split the upper ranks of the Republican leadership in the House.

Speaker John Boehner of Ohio voted in favor, while Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Vir-

Highlights of a bill approved Tuesday by the Senate aimed at averting wide tax increases and budget cuts scheduled to take effect in the new year. The measure would raise taxes by about \$600 billion over 10 years compared with tax policies that were due to expire at midnight Monday. It would also delay for two months across-the-board cuts to the budgets of the Pentagon and numerous domestic agencies.

The House is expected to vote on the bill Tuesday or Wednesday.

Highlights include:



President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden makes a statement regarding the passage of the fiscal cliff bill in the Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013.

ginia and California Rep. Kevin McCarthy, the party's whip, opposed the bill.

Supporters of the bill in both parties expressed regret that it was narrowly drawn, and fell far short of a sweeping plan that combined tax changes and spending cuts to reduce federal deficits. That proved to be a step too far in the two months since Obama called congressional leaders to the White House for a postelection stab at compromise.

Majority Republicans did their best to minimize the bill's tax increases, just as they abandoned their demand from earlier in the day to add spending cuts to the package.

"By making Republican tax cuts permanent, we are one step closer to comprehensive tax reform that will help strengthen our economy and create more and higher paychecks for American workers," said Rep. Dave Camp of Michigan, chairman of

the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

He urged a vote for passage to "get us one step closer to tax reform in 2013" as well as attempts to control spending.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi also said the legislation included "permanent tax relief for the middle class," and she summoned lawmakers to provide bipartisan support as the Senate did.

The bill would also prevent an expiration of extended unemployment benefits for an estimated two million jobless, block a 27 percent cut in fees for doctors who treat Medicare patients, stop a \$900 pay increase for lawmakers from taking effect in March and head off a threatened spike in milk prices.

It would stop \$24 billion in across-the-board spending cuts set to take effect over the next two months, although only about half of that total would be

offset with savings elsewhere in the budget.

The economic as well as political stakes were considerable.

Economists have warned that without action by Congress, the tax increases and spending cuts that technically took effect with the turn of the new year at midnight could send the economy into recession.

Even with enactment of the legislation, taxes are on the rise for millions.

A 2 percentage point temporary cut in the Social Security payroll tax, originally enacted two years ago to stimulate the economy, expired with the end of 2012. Neither Obama nor Republicans made a significant effort to extend it.

House Republicans spent much of the day struggling to escape a political corner they found themselves in.

"I personally hate it," Rep. John Campbell of California,

said of the measure, giving voice to the concern of many Republicans that it did little or nothing to cut spending.

"The speaker the day after the election said we would give on taxes and we have. But we wanted spending cuts. This bill has spending increases. Are you kidding me? So we get tax increases and spending increases? Come on."

Cantor told reporters at one point, "I do not support the bill. We are looking, though, for the best path forward."

Within hours, Republicans abandoned demands for changes and agreed to a simple yes-or-no vote on the Senate-passed bill.

They feared that otherwise the Senate would refuse to consider any alterations, sending the bill into limbo and saddling Republicans with the blame for a whopping middle class tax increase. One Senate Democratic leadership aide said Majority Leader Harry Reid would "absolutely not take up the bill" if the House changed it. The aide spoke on condition of anonymity, citing a requirement to keep internal deliberations private.

Despite Cantor's remarks, Boehner took no public position in advance of voting the bill as he sought to negotiate a conclusion to the final crisis of a twoyear term full of them.

The brief insurrection wasn't the first time that the tea partyinfused House Republican majority has rebelled against the party establishment since the GOP took control of the chamber 24 months ago. But with the two-year term set to end Thursday at noon, it was likely the last. And as was true in earlier cases of a threatened default and government shutdown, the brinkmanship came on a matter of economic urgency, leaving the party open to a public backlash if tax increases do take effect on tens of millions.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office said the measure would add nearly \$4 trillion over a decade to federal deficits, a calculation that assumed taxes would otherwise have risen on taxpayers at all income levels. There was little or no evident concern among Republicans on that point, presumably because of their belief that tax cuts pay for themselves by expanding economic growth and do not cause deficits to rise.

The relative paucity of spending cuts was a sticking point with many House Republicans. Among other items, the extension of unemployment benefits costs \$30 billion, and is not offset by savings elsewhere.

Others said unhappiness over spending outweighed fears that the financial markets will plunge on Wednesday if the fiscal cliff hasn't been averted.

"There's a concern about the markets, but there's a bigger concern, which is getting this right, which is something we haven't been very good at over the past two years," said Rep. Steve LaTourette of Ohio.

Details of Senate bill averting 'fiscal cliff'

- Income tax rates: Extends decade-old tax cuts on incomes up to \$400,000 for individuals, \$450,000 for couples. Earnings above those amounts would be taxed at a rate of 39.6 percent, up from the current 35 percent. Extends Clinton-era caps on itemized deductions and the phase-out of the personal exemption for individuals making more than \$250,000 and couples earning more than \$300,000.
- Estate tax: Estates would be taxed at a top rate of 40 percent,
- with the first \$5 million in value exempted for individual estates and \$10 million for family estates. In 2012, such estates were subject to a top rate of 35 percent.
- Capital gains, dividends: Taxes on capital gains and dividend income exceeding \$400,000 for individuals and \$450,000 for families would increase from 15 percent to 20 percent.
- Alternative minimum tax: Permanently addresses the alternative minimum tax and indexes it for inflation to prevent
- nearly 30 million middle- and upper-middle income taxpayers from being hit with higher tax bills averaging almost \$3,000. The tax was originally designed to ensure that the wealthy did not avoid owing taxes by using loopholes.
- Other tax changes: Extends for five years Obama-sought expansions of the child tax credit, the earned income tax credit, and an up-to-\$2,500 tax credit for college tuition. Also extends for one year accelerated "bo-
- nus" depreciation of business investments in new property and equipment, a tax credit for research and development costs and a tax credit for renewable energy such as wind-generated electricity.
- Unemployment benefits: Extends jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed for one year. -Cuts in Medicare reimbursements to doctors: Blocks a 27 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors for one year. The cut is the product of an ob-

solete 1997 budget formula.

- Social Security payroll tax cut: Allows a 2-percentage-point cut in the payroll tax first enacted two years ago to lapse, which restores the payroll tax to 6.2 percent.
- Across-the-board cuts: Delays for two months \$109 billion worth of across-the-board spending cuts set to start striking the Pentagon and domestic agencies this week. Cost of \$24 billion is divided between spending cuts and new revenues from rule changes on converting traditional individual retirement accounts into Roth IRAs.

14 THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2013 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nation

Political brinksmanship still threatens US economy

if U.S. lawmakers avoid the socalled fiscal cliff, higher taxes and brinksmanship in Washington are likely to continue damaging the fragile economy well into 2013.

In the early hours of the new year, the Senate passed emergency legislation to prevent deep spending cuts and even bigger tax hikes from taking effect. But the measure ran into fierce opposition Tuesday from House Republicans, leaving unclear whether a final agreement could be reached before the current Congress ends Thursday.

The Senate version would raise taxes on individual incomes over \$400,000 and household incomes over \$450,000 and on the portion of estates that exceeds \$5 million. House Republicans are reluctant

WASHINGTON (AP)—Even to sign on to those tax hikes which would deliver some \$600 billion in revenue over 10 years at least without more cuts in government spending.

> The higher taxes on the wealthy would likely slow the economy a little bit. But a bigger drag would come from a tax hike Democrats and Republicans aren't even bothering to fight over: the end of a two-year Social Security tax cut. The so-called payroll tax is scheduled to bounce back up to 6.2 percent this year from 4.2 percent in 2011 and 2012, amounting to a \$1,000 tax increase for someone earning \$50,000 a year.

"It's a huge hit," says Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors. "It hits people whether they're making \$10,000 or they're making \$2 million.

... The lower your income, the more of your income you're (spending). So if you're taxes go up, it's going to come out of your spending." And that is bad news for an economy that is 70 percent consumer spending.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, calculates that the higher payroll tax will reduce economic growth by 0.6 percentage points in 2013. The other possible tax increases—including higher taxes on household incomes above \$450,000 a year—will slice just 0.15 percentage points off annual growth, Zandi said.

The economy doesn't have much growth to give. Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wells Fargo, predicts it will expand

It doesn't matter who you are just 1.5 percent in 2013, down from a lackluster 2.2 percent in 2012. Unemployment stands at 7.7 percent.

Amonths-long political standoff over fiscal policy has already taken its toll, adding uncertainty that has discouraged consumers from spending and businesses from hiring and investing.

The squabbling seems sure to persist even if the House goes along with the Senate's partial fix.

Senators postponed tough decisions on government spending, giving themselves a reprieve from cuts that were scheduled to begin taking effect automatically Jan. 1. That just sets the stage for more hard-bargaining later, even if the House approves the

And another standoff is likely to arrive as early as February when Congress will need to raise the \$16.4 trillion federal borrowing limit so the government can keep paying its bills. House Republicans probably won't agree to raise the debt limit without offsetting spending cuts that Democrats are sure to resist.

"Even if they cut some small deal, the process and what is left undone still means there's a lot of uncertainty," says Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group.

After Jan. 1, asks Ethan Harris, co-head of global economics at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, "what induces the two sides to stop fighting and start compromising

The fiscal cliff itself was cre-

ated to force Democrats and Republicans to compromise. To end a 2011 standoff over raising the federal debt limit, they agreed to a Jan. 1, 2013 deadline to reach a deal over taxes and spending. If they didn't, more than \$500 billion in tax increases would hit the economy in 2013 alone, along with \$109 billion in cuts from the military and domestic spending programs. The sharp tax hikes and spending cut would threaten to send the economy over the cliff and back into recession.

But negotiations to avert catastrophe have highlighted once again how far apart the two parties are on taxes (Republicans don't want to raise them) and spending (Democrats are reluctant to cut government programs).

Sandy Hook students, teachers head back to school

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP)— Since escaping a gunman's rampage at their elementary school, the 8-year-old Connors triplets have suffered nightmares, jumped at noises and clung to their parents a little more than usual.

Now parents like David Connors are bracing to send their children back to school, nearly three weeks after the shooting rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. It won't be easy—for the parents or the children, who heard the gunshots that killed 20 of their classmates and six educators.

"I'm nervous about it," Connors said. "It's unchartered waters for us. I know it's going to be difficult."

Classes are starting Thursday at a repurposed school in the neighboring town of Monroe, where the students' desks have been taken along with backpacks and other belongings that were left behind in the chaos following the shooting on Dec. 14. Families have been coming in to see the new school, and an open house is scheduled for Wednesday.

An army of workers has been getting the school ready, painting, moving furniture and even raising the floors in the bathrooms of the former middle school so the smaller elementary school students can reach the Connors, a 40-year-old engineer, felt reas-



In this Dec. 18, 2012 file photo, a school bus rolls toward a memorial in Newtown, Conn., for victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School

sured after recently visiting the new setup at the former Chalk Hill school in Monroe. He said his children were excited to see their backpacks and coats, and that the family was greeted by a police officer at the door and grief counselors in the hallways.

normal a school day as possible the kids to reconnect with their when to do so, Robinson said.

for the children, schools Superintendent Janet Robinson said.

"We want to get back to teaching and learning," she said. 'We will obviously take time out from the academics for any conversations that need to take place, and there will be a lot of

friends and classroom teachers, and I think that's going to be the healthiest thing.'

Teachers are returning as well, and some have already been working on their classrooms. At some point, all those kiln room, and I got a message will be honored, but officials Teachers will try to make it as support there. All in all, we want are still working out how and

"Everyone was part and parcel of getting as many kids out of there safely as they could," she said. "Almost everybody did something to save kids. One art teacher locked her kids in the from her on my cellphone saying she wouldn't come out until she saw a police badge."

Clinton receiving blood thinners to dissolve clot

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton continues to recover in a New York hospital where she's being treated for a blood clot in her head.

Her doctors say blood thinners are being used to dissolve the clot and they are confident she will make a full recovery. Clinton didn't suffer a stroke or neurological damage from the clot that formed after she

suffered a concussion during a fainting spell at her home in early December, doctors said in a statement Monday.

Clinton, 65, was admitted to New York-Presbyterian Hospital on Sunday when the clot turned up on a follow-up exam on the concussion, Clinton spokesman Phillipe Reines said. The clot is located in the vein in the space between the brain and the skull behind the right ear.

She will be released once the medication dose for the blood thinners has been established, the doctors said.

In their statement, Dr. Lisa Bardack of the Mount Kisco Medical Group and Dr. Gigi El-Bayoumi of George Washington University said Clinton was making excellent progress and was in good spirits.

Clinton's complication "certainly isn't the most common thing to happen after a concussion" and is one of the few types of blood clots in the skull or head that are treated with blood thinners, said Dr. Larry Goldstein, a neurologist who is director of Duke University's stroke center. He is not involved in Clinton's care.

The area where Clinton's clot developed is "a drainage channel, the equivalent of a big vein inside the skull. It's how the blood gets back to the heart," Goldstein said.

Blood thinners usually are enough to treat the clot and it should have no long-term consequences if her doctors are saying she has suffered no neurological damage from it, Goldstein said.

Clinton returned to the U.S. from a trip to Europe, then fell ill with a stomach virus in early December that left her severely dehydrated and forced her to cancel a trip to North Africa and the Middle East.

ACROSS THE NATION

Taxiing plane clips parked jet at Fla. airport FORT LAUDERDALE,

Fla. (AP)—Authorities say no one was injured when two airplanes got into a sort of fenderbender at a Florida airport. Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue says a taxiing Spirit Airlines Airbus A-320 clipped a US Airways Airbus A-320. The US Airways jet was parked Monday night in a remote area away from the gate at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. Spirit spokeswoman Misty Pinson says a flight from Atlanta was taxiing to its gate when its left wing clipped the parked plane. Pinson says all 162 passengers on board got off at the gate as normal, and the plane returned to service.

Plan for NYC **Ferris wheel rolls** on, despite Sandy

NEW YORK (AP)—As the city grapples with rebuilding after Superstorm Sandy, developers are pressing ahead with plans for an ambitious addition to the shoreline of stormtorn Staten Island: the world's largest Ferris wheel. Sandy's flooding spurred some changes to the nearly \$500 million project, which includes an outlet mall and hotel. But developers haven't slowed it or scaled it back. Supporters say Staten Island needs the boost now more than ever. Yet some residents, a city watchdog and a planning group have asked whether it makes sense to push ahead with a 625foot-tall tourist attraction, set partly in a flood zone, before officials take a comprehensive look at how to build smarter after Sandy. And some say it's unseemly to talk about amusement rides when Sandy has left a trail of loss.

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Asia

Hundreds hurt in New Year's parties in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— More than 400 people were hurt by powerful firecrackers and gunfire in New Year 's Eve celebrations in the Philippines, down 17 percent from a year earlier but still high enough to make it one of Asia's most violent parties to welcome 2013.

Health Secretary Enrique Ona said Tuesday that the 413 wounded and hurt included a child who was hit in the head by a stray bullet fired by an unidentified person at the height of New Year's revelry in suburban Caloocan city in metropolitan Manila. The 7-year-old girl is fighting for her life.

"The bullet's still embedded in her head," Ona told a news conference. "It looks like she may not be saved."

Police said another child was accidentally hit by a shell fired by a homemade shotgun and died during celebrations in Mandaluyong city, also in the Manila region, but health officials said they have not received the details of the incident and could not immediately include the death in their casualty list.

Ona said the 17 percent drop in gunshot wounds and firecracker injuries "is still not enough." As an example, he said one man had his hand blown off in an accident while lighting a huge, prohibited firecracker called "Goodbye Philippines," while at least eight people were



A Filipino is treated for firecracker injuries at the East Avenue Medical Center in suburban Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines on Tuesday Jan. 1, 2013.

hit by celebratory gunfire.

Many Filipinos, largely influenced by Chinese tradition, believe that noisy New Year's celebrations drive away evil and misfortune. But they

have carried that superstition to extremes, exploding huge

firecrackers and firing guns to welcome the new year despite

threats of arrest. Although the number of injuries has tapered off in recent years, largely due to hard economic times and government scare campaigns, the figures remain alarming.

The scare campaigns include television advertisements with doctors displaying brutal-looking surgical saws and cleavers used in amputating hands and fingers of firecracker blast victims. Also in December, a top health official danced in schools and other public areas to South Korean rapper PSY's Youtube hit "Gangnam Style" to get attention and preach against firecracker use, especially by children.

The large number of firecracker injuries came despite the arrests of more than 300 vendors and users of illegally large firecrackers in Manila and elsewhere ahead of New Year's Eve.

The crackdown, however, was marred by an incident in which several policemen were seen on video helping themselves to boxes of confiscated firecrackers shortly after they were shown to reporters at a news conference over the weekend. The policemen could face administrative charges or dismissal.

1 Indian gang rape suspect may be juvenile

NEW DELHI (AP)—A bone witnesses have been gathered, test is being conducted to confirm the age of a young suspect in custody in the fatal assault and gang rape of a woman on a bus in India's capital, while prosecutors will seek the death penalty for five other men arrested with him, police said Tuesday.

The six will be formally charged in court on Thursday on accusations that they kidnapped, gang raped and murdered the 23-year-old woman in New Delhi on Dec. 16, police spokesman Rajan Bhagat said.

Media reports say some 30

and the charges have been detailed in a document running more than 1,000 pages.

Outraged Indians have been demanding the death penalty for the six men, holding demonstrations almost every day since the rape. Murder is punishable by death and rape by life imprisonment. But juveniles—those below 18 years of age—cannot be prosecuted for murder.

Another police officer said a bone test is being conducted to determine if the youngest suspect is indeed a juvenile. If the test determines he is 18 years or older he will be treated as an adult, said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to disclose sensitive in-

The brutality of the case has made Indians confront the reality that sexual violence is deeply entrenched in the society. Women face daily harassment, from catcalls on streets and groping in buses to rapes. Often police refuse to accept complaints by female victims and even accuse them of inviting unwanted male attention by dressing provocatively. Families also dissuade victims

from coming forward in the belief that it will ruin their reputations. Activists hope the savage assault on the woman, a physiotherapy student, will shake off the taboo and make authorities take such cases more seriously.

The woman and a male companion were attacked when they boarded an off-duty bus in southern New Delhi to go home. The six men, including the bus driver, allegedly took turns raping her and beat her with an iron bar which they also inserted in her body, causing severe injuries to her organs.

India, Pakistan exchange nuclear facilities list

ASIAN BRIEFS

NEW DELHI (AP)—India and Pakistan have carried an annual exchange of lists of their nuclear facilities as part of an agreement that bans the rivals from attacking each other's nuclear installations. An Indian External Affairs Ministry statement says the lists were exchanged on Tuesday both in New Delhi and Islamabad. The exchanges have taken place on the first day of the year since 1992 as part of their agreement. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since they won independence from Britain in 1947. Relations between them have improved after India suspended them following the Mumbai terror attack in 2008 that killed 166 people.

Rohingya boat people found adrift near Thai resort

PHUKET, Thailand (AP)—A boat carrying about 70 asylum seekers from Myanmar's beleaguered Rohingya minority has been found adrift in the Andaman Sea off the Thai resort of Phuket. Thai authorities provided it with supplies on Tuesday so it could be sent on its way. Thai navy, police, health and other officials supplied medicine and food and water to the asylum seekers, along with fuel for the boat so it could continue its journey without landing in Thailand. Thai policy is to not accept boat people but to aid them in reaching a third country. The passengers include about 10 children. The exodus of Muslim Rohingva from Myanmar and Bangladesh, where many are also confined to refugee camps, has become seasonal, peaking in December and January.

Singapore police arrest boy, 13, over bomb threat

SINGAPORE (AP)—Singapore police have arrested a 13-year-old boy for making an online threat to bomb a major resort. The police said Tuesday that the case comes under the Breach of Prohibition Against False Threats of Terrorist Acts. According to a post on Facebook, which has since been taken down, the boy said when he leaves Singapore he was going to take revenge and "plant bombs on Marina Bay Sands." A spokesman for Marina Bay Sands said that it had made a police report.

Pakistan: Gunmen kill 7 teachers, aid workers

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Gunmen on motorcycles sprayed a van carrying employees from a community center with bullets Tuesday, killing five female teachers and two aid workers, but sparing a child they took out of the vehicle before opening fire.

The director of the group that the seven worked for says he suspects it may have been the latest in a series of attacks targeting anti-polio efforts in Pakistan. Some militants oppose the vaccination campaigns, accusing health workers of acting as spies for the U.S. and alleging the vaccine is intended to make Muslim children sterile.

Last month, nine people working on an anti-polio vaccination campaign were shot and killed. Four of those shootings were in the northwest where Tuesday's attack took place.

The attack was another reminder of the risks to women educators and aid workers from Islamic militants who oppose their work. It was in the same conservative province where militants shot and seriously wounded 15-year-old Malala Yousufzai, an outspoken young activist for girls' education, in October. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the latest shootings.

The teachers and health workers—one man and one woman were killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on their way home from a community center in the town of Swabi where they were employed at a medical clinic and primary school. Their driver was also injured.

Javed Akhtar, the director of Support With Working Solution, said the medical clinic vaccinated children against polio, and many of the NGO's staff had taken part in immunization campaigns.

Militants in the province have

blown up schools and killed female educators. They have also kidnapped and killed aid workers, viewing them as promoting a foreign, liberal agenda.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, formerly called the Northwest Frontier province, borders the tribal areas of Pakistan along the frontier with Afghanistan to the west. Militant groups such as the Taliban have used the tribal areas as a stronghold from which to wage war both in Afghanistan and against the Pakistani government. Often that violence has spilled over into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

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World

Clashes in Syria shut down Aleppo airport Venezuelans

BEIRUT (AP)—Clashes between government troops and rebels on Tuesday forced the international airport in Aleppo to stop all flights in and out of Syria's largest city, while fierce battles also raged in the suburbs of the capital Damascus.

The rebels have been making inroad in the civil war recently, capturing a string of military bases and posing a stiff challenge to the regime in Syria's two major cities—Damascus and Aleppo.

The opposition trying to overthrow authoritarian President Bashar Assad has been fighting for control of Aleppo since the summer, and they have captured large swathes of territory in Aleppo province west and north of the city up to the Turkish border.

In the past few weeks, the rebels have stepped up their attacks on airports around Aleppo province, trying to chip away at the government's air power, which poses the biggest obstacle to their advances. The air force has been bombing and strafing rebel positions and attacking towns under opposition control for months. But the rebels have no planes or effective anti-aircraft weapons to counter the attacks.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an anti-regime activist group, said the fighting around the base of Syrian army Brigade 80, part of a force protecting Aleppo International Airport, led to the closure of the airport late Monday.

"Heavy fighting is taking place around Brigade 80," said Rami Abdul-Rahman, who heads the Observatory. The Observatory relies on a network of activists around Syria.

"The airport has been closed since yesterday," he said.

The Syrian government had no comment on the closing of the air-



In this Saturday, Dec. 29, 2012 photo, Free Syrian Army fighters fire at enemy positions during heavy clashes with government forces, in the Salaheddine district of Aleppo, Syria.

port. On Saturday, Syria's national airline canceled a flight to Aleppo because of fighting nearby.

Rebels have warned that they would target civilian as well as military planes using the Aleppo airport, saying the regime is using civilian planes to bring in supplies and weapons.

The rebels have been attacking three other airports in the Aleppo area, including a military helicopter base near the Turkish border. They have posted dozens of videos online that appear to show fighters shooting mortars, homemade rockets and sniper rifles at targets inside the bases.

There was also heavy fighting in the Damascus suburb of Daraya, southwest of the capi-

tal. Daraya is one of the closest suburbs to the capital and is on the edge of two important neighborhoods that are home to a strategic air base and government headquarters.

The fighting in Daraya was so fierce that the explosions echoed in some parts of the capital.

Although the regime still tightly controls much of Damascus, its seat of power, rebels have been posing a stiffer challenge in the suburbs. In the past few weeks, there has been fighting near the capital's international airport that interrupted some flights. The road to the airport, just south of the capital, was also closed during the fighting.

The Observatory and activ-

ist Mohammed Saeed, who is based near Damascus, said Syrian warplanes bombed Daraya on Tuesday.

State-run news agency SANA said troops killed "tens of terrorists" in Daraya and nearby areas. The regime refers to rebels as "terrorists."

Activists say more than 45,000 people have been killed since the uprising against Assad began 22 months ago. Daraya is few kilometers (miles) from the strategic military air base of Mazzeh in a western neighborhood of the capital. It is also on the edge of the Kfar Sousseh neighborhood that is home to the government headquarters, the General Security intelligence

agency head office and the Interior Ministry. That ministry was targeted in a recent suicide attack that wounded Interior Minister Mohammed al-Shaar.

"The regime is doing all it can to regain Daraya," said Maath al-Shami, an activist based in the Syrian neighborhood of Mazzeh, via Skype. "The regime is dying to get back it back," he added.

"Daraya is the gate of Damascus for the rebels," said al-Shami.

Amateur videos showed smoke billowing from Daraya from what activists said were the air raids. Another video showed a street covered with debris as fire raged on the second floor of a five-story building.

Venezuelans on edge amid shifting news on Chavez

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Supporters and opponents of President Hugo Chavez alike nervously welcomed the new year Tuesday, left on edge by shifting signals from the government about the Venezuelan leader's condition three weeks after cancer surgery in Cuba.

With rumors swirling that Chavez had taken a turn for the worse, Vice President Nicolas Maduro said in a televised interview in Cuba that he had met with the president twice, spoken with him and planned to return to Venezuela on Wednesday.

Maduro said Chavez faces "a complex and delicate situation." Despite that, he said, the president has "the same strength as always."

"All the time we've been hoping for his positive evolution. Sometimes he has had light improvements, sometimes stationary situations," Maduro said in the prerecorded interview, which was broadcast Tuesday night by the Caracas-based television network Telesur.

Chavez has not been seen or heard from since the Dec. 11 operation, and officials have reported a series of ups and downs in his recovery—the most recent, on Sunday, announcing that new complications from a respiratory infection had put the president in a "delicate" state.

Speculation has grown since Maduro announced those latest troubles, which were a sharp shift from his remark nearly a week earlier that the president had been up and walking.

In Tuesday's interview, Maduro did not provide any new details about Chavez's complications. But he joined other Chavez allies in urging Venezuelans to ignore gossip, saying rumors are being spread due to "the hatred of the enemies of Venezuela."

He didn't refer to any rumors in particular, though one of them circulating online had described Chavez as being in a coma.

Political opponents of Chavez have complained that the government hasn't told the country enough about his health, and even some of his supporters said Tuesday that they wished they knew more.

"We're distressed by El Comandante's health," said Francisca Fuentes, who was walking through a downtown square with her grandchildren. "I think they aren't telling us the whole truth. It's time for them to speak clearly. It's like when you have a sick relative and the doctor lies to you every once in a while."

Stampede after fireworks kills 61 in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—A crowd stampeded after leaving a New Year's fireworks show early Tuesday in Ivory Coast's main city, killing 61 people—many of them children and teenagers—and injuring more than 200, rescue workers said.

Thousands had gathered at the Felix Houphouet Boigny Stadium in Abidjan's Plateau district to see the fireworks. It was only the second New Year's Eve fireworks display since peace returned to this West African nation after a bloody upheaval over presidential elections put the nation on the brink of civil war and turned this city into a battle zone.

With 2013 showing greater promise, people were in the mood to celebrate on New Year's Eve. Families brought children and they watched the rockets burst in the nighttime sky. But only an hour into the new year,

as the crowds poured onto the Boulevard de la Republic after the show, something caused a stampede, said Col. Issa Sako of the fire department rescue team. How so many deaths occurred on the broad boulevard and how the tragedy started is likely to be the subject of an investigation.

Many of the younger ones in the crowd went down, trampled underfoot. Most of those killed were between 8 and 15 years old

"The flood of people leaving the stadium became a stampede which led to the deaths of more than 60 and injured more than 200," Sako told Ivory Coast state TV.

Desperate parents went to the city morgue, the hospital and to the stadium to try to find missing children. Mamadou Sanogo was searching for his 9-year-old son, Sayed.

"I have just seen all the bodies, but I cannot find my son,"

said a tearful Sanogo. "I don't know what to do." State TV showed a woman sobbing in the back of an ambulance;

bing in the back of an ambulance; another was bent over on the side of the street, apparently in pain; and another, barely conscious and wearing only a bra on her upper body, was hoisted by rescuers. There were also scenes of small children being treated in a hospital. One boy grimaced in pain and a girl with colored braids in her hair lay under a blanket with one hand bandaged. The death toll could rise, officials said.

After the sun came up, soldiers were patrolling the site that was littered with victims' clothes, shoes, torn sandals and other belongings. President Alassane Ouattara and his wife Dominique visited some of the injured in the hospital. Mrs. Ouattara leaned over one child who was on a bed in a crowded hospital ward and tried to console the youngster.

WORLD BRIEFS

Palestinians will outnumber Israeli Jews by 2020

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Palestinian statistics bureau estimates that Arabs will outnumber Jews in the Holy Land by the end of the decade, a scenario that could have grave implications for Israel. The bureau said Tuesday that 5.8 million Arabs live in Israel, the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem. That compares to about 6 million Israeli Jews, according to Israeli data. It said that based on current birth rates, the two populations would be equal in 2016, and in 2020, Arabs would outnumber Jews by 7.2 million to 6.9 million. The demographic issue is a main argument for Israeli backers of creation of a Palestinian state. They say relinquishing control of the Palestinian territories and its residents is the only way to ensure Israel's future as a democracy with a Jewish majority.

Thieves break into Paris' flagship Apple store

PARIS (AP)—Masked and armed thieves used the New Year's Eve fete to rob the flagship Apple store in Paris. The French press reported that up to (EURO)1 million (\$1.3 million) in goods were stolen at the store selling products such as Apple's iPhones and iPads behind the Paris Opera house, a figure police would not immediately confirm. Police said Tuesday the theft occurred about 9 p.m. Monday, 3 hours after closing, while police were deployed around the famed Champs-Elysees Avenue where revelers traditionally gather on New Year's Eve. Christophe Crepin of the Unsa police union said the "well prepared" operation was carried out by four masked and armed individuals.

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Focus



said readers will pay the same as the print edition - a contrast to publications that charge online subscribers substantially less.

"If you have a wonderful restaurant and it cost \$10 to come in the front door, I've never understood why it should cost anything less to come through a side door," he said.

"The value of the journalism isn't any less. The reporter isn't paid any less. The photographer isn't paid any less.'

Kushner, who has a master's degree in organizational analysis, founded a business in the 1990s that allowed people to change their addresses online and later owned and managed a greeting-card company for seven years.

In 2010, he started an investors group, 2100 Trust LLC, to scout for newspapers, flirting with The Boston Globe and later with MaineToday Media Inc., publisher of The Portland Press Herald.

Tom Bell, president of The Portland Newspaper Guild, said Kushner presented the union with 50 demands, including a longer work week and increases in employee health care contributions.

"We got off to such a bad start that it was hard to recover," said Bell, who is skeptical of that Kushner's print bet will succeed.

Kushner settled on Freedom and its 107-year-old flagship paper, the Register, for an undisclosed sum. The newspaper serves affluent, growing, well-educated and ethnically diverse communities near Los Angeles, bolstered by 24 community publications.

Kushner became Freedom's chief

its circulation tumbled 40 percent and the newsroom shrank in half. A tabloid paper featuring snappier stories failed, as did a weekly entertainment publica-

Reporters got ever-rising numerical targets to generate Web traffic, with constant reminders of how they fared against peers. "It was more like a sales floor than a newsroom," columnist Frank Mickadeit wrote in a recent piece hailing the Register's "reawakening."

To focus more on the print edition, the Register slashed the number of blogs from around 40 to less than a dozen. It scrapped an iPad application for news, traffic and weather.

The new owners have introduced a daily page for coverage of a major development, began sending a reporter and photographer to every one of the region's 50 high school football games on Fridays and doubled editorial pages.

Reporters have been encouraged to dig deeper and expand sources. "It's a new experience for (a publisher) to say, 'Are you sure you have enough investigative reporters? I think you ought to hire more," Brusic said.

The Register's editorial page once a strong libertarian voice—didn't endorse for president in November. Kushner has contributed to Democrats such as Barack Obama and Joe Biden and moderate Republicans, including Sen. Susan Collins of Maine.

Kushner declined to discuss his political views and said they are separate from his work at the Register.

He is looking to buy more newspapers, telling Register staff last year that he had a list of 15 that fit his criteria.

Aaron Kushner, publisher of The Orange County Register, pauses for photos in his office in Santa Ana, Calif., Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012. After years of demoralizing layoffs, one newspaper is trying something novel: hiring more reporters. The Orange County Register's new owner thinks the way to turn the paper around is through better reporting to lure new and former readers to a revived product.

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—New and expanded sections to cover business, automobiles and food. A nearly five-fold increase in community news pages and more investigative reporting. Even daily color comics.

lier era at the Orange County Register, for years, slashing costs while seeking where a first-time newspaper owner is clicks on often-free websites to attract defying conventional wisdom by spending heavily to expand the printed edition and playing down digital formats.

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

Aaron Kushner added about 75 journalists and, with 25 more coming, will have expanded the newsroom by half since his investment group bought the nation's 20th-largest newspaper by circulation in July.

Changes also include thicker pages with triple the number of colors to produce razor-sharp photos and graphics. By the end of March, the newspaper will have 40 percent more space than under previous owners, Freedom Communications Inc.

Kushner, 39, believes people will pay for high-quality news. His bet is remarkable in an industry where news-

It feels like a throwback to an ear- papers have shrunk their way to profits online advertising.

As more newspapers begin charging for online access, Kushner's spending spree is drawing close attention.

"If he's successful, it's going to show the way for other papers to follow," said Walter E. Hussman Jr., publisher of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and an early advocate of charging readers for online access.

Seated behind his large, clutter-free desk near shelves stacked with newspapers, the former Stanford University gymnast said his lack of industry experience may be a plus because he hasn't been through the tough times in newspapering.

"So when we sit down and look at what's possible, our view of the

world is different," Kushner said. "We're a little crazy in that we really do believe that we can grow this particular newspaper."

It's too early to know whether he's right. Kushner said advertising revenues have grown, though he won't say how much.

Average daily circulation rose 5.3 percent as of Sept. 30 from a year earlier to 285,088 on weekdays and 387,547 on Sundays, bucking an industry decline of 0.2 percent, according to the Alliance for Audited Media.

One key test will be when the Register begins charging for online access sometime before the end of March. He

executive and the Register's publisher, working five days a week at the company's Santa Ana headquarters and flying cross-country to his wife and three children in the Boston area.

Many executives stayed put, including the top editor, Ken Brusic, who joined the Register in 1989.

The newsroom is nearing 300 employees, including about 40 yearround interns who are paid \$10 an hour and provided housing. The new owners eliminated 401(k) matches at the non-union newspaper and have resisted pay raises.

Like other newspapers, the Register experimented over the last decade as In an interview, he expressed interest in Tribune Co. newspapers, which include the Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times and Baltimore Sun.

Some readers and employees question how much the new owners will stomach if growth stalls. Kushner insisted he is committed, saying the Register has a strong balance sheet and doesn't answer to shareholders seeking quick returns.

"If you don't have a clear tangible way to grow revenue you only have one alternative and that's to cut costs," he said. "That path may well work. That's not the path that we're on here."

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Environment

A king of compost

By LISA BOONE LOS ANGELES TIMES

ANGELES— OS Steven Wynbrandt sticks his hand deep beneath the layers of straw that blanket his enormous compost heap and pulls out a fistful of black gold, sweet and earthy.

"Look at this soil," Wynbrandt says with excitement as his fingers open, revealing his secret recipe for compost: decomposed dairy cow manure. alfalfa, yarrow, camomile, stinging nettle, oak bark, dandelion and valerian flowers. "I'm an alchemist."

As further proof that compost is to gardening these days what grass-fed beef and gluten-free gourmet foods are to the world of cooking, the Wynbrandt compost heap photographed by the Los Angeles Times would later sell through word of mouth

for \$1 a pound. Beyond his emerging role as one of L.A.'s kings of compost, Wynbrandt also leads gardening workshops and teaches classes on how to make better soil-all the more impressive given the fact that just three years ago he was a gardening novice.

His journey began in 2009, when, as a 32-year-old surfer, teacher, musician and self-described "spiritual seeker," he returned home after traveling for four months in Central America and moved back in with his mother in West L.A. Looking

through her kitchen window, he had an epiphany.

"I wanted to become more self-sufficient and know where my food comes from," he recalls. He wanted to grow his own food free of pesticides and other chemicals. He wanted to become a farmer.

"He had never planted anything in his life," says his mother, June Wynbrandt. "He might have put an avocado seed in a jar when he was young, but that's about it."

Still, Steven attacked the shade-covered, weed-choked yard with a vengeance. When six trees needed to be pruned, he donned bike helmet and rock climbing harness, climbed 30 feet high and cut the branches himself with a chain saw. Eventually he had four trees cut down completely to bring in the sunlight needed to grow food. ("That was very difficult for him," his mother says.)

For three weeks, he worked 14 hours a day, filling his neighbors' green bins and selling the cut logs he accumulated. He stripped the leaves from the trees and added them to a compost bin the size of a bedroom he built in the side yard. He brought seaweed from the beach and secretly collected 3,000 pounds of food scraps from a raw vegan restaurant at midnight for three months. The alchemy was underway.

Asked if carting 300 wheelbarrows of manure to his backyard and making 25,000 pounds of compost might be viewed as obsessive, Wynbrandt responds: "I'm not obsessive. I'm just doing it right."

Once his clay soil was amended with his homemade compost, Wynbrandt attended gardening workshops and tapped the knowledge of others, including the Westside Permies, who help



LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT Steven Wynbrandt harvests greens in his backyard bio intensive urban mini farm



California, July 28, 2012. Wynbrandt says it is his compost that makes the difference. He makes it with cow manure, biodynamic preparation and alfalfa.

He attended lectures by veteran farmers such as Jack McAndrew, a Pacific Palisades, Calif.based authority on biodynamic farming, an approach that fuses agriculture with spirituality.

> Wynbrandt says his roots in Judaism and his years at Humboldt State University deeply influenced his stewardship for the Earth.

> "There is a Hebrew phrase, Tikkun olam," he says. "It means 'Heal the world.' That's what I'm trying to do."

> Wynbrandt shares his surplus with friends and family as well as with the Sova food pantry in West Hollywood, where his mom volunteers.

Wynbrandt's suggestions for home gardeners is simple: "Grow what you love to eat. Seek people in your neighborhood and microclimate,

and find out what they have grown with success. Consult the UC Extension planting schedule and try to use the best compost you can, whether you make it yourself or not.'

It's advice that worked for magical."

him, and now when June Wynbrandt looks out her kitchen window, she is blessed with a spectacular view of a garden that can sustain her. "It's more than beautiful," she says. "It's

DO YOUR PART

Top 5 uses for olive oil

By TERRI BENNETT

MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

We all know that olive oil is good for you but it isn't just good for cooking-it's an ecofriendly ingredient that can be used to do all sorts of things around your home. Here are my favorite ways to Do Your Part with a bottle of olive oil.

1. OLIVE OIL AS **FURNITURE POLISH**

Mix two parts olive oil with one part vinegar for a powerful cleaner for finished wood pieces. Mix only what you need in a small bowl and use a soft rag to get wood glowing again. You can also substitute lemon juice instead of the vinegar to work as a furniture polish. In that case, apply the olive oil and lemon mixture and rub the area briskly

with a soft rag or towel. 2. OLIVE OIL ON **STAINLESS STEEL**

There's no need for commercial chemical cleaners on stainless steel pieces in the kitchen when straight olive oil can get the shine you want without polluting the air inside your home. Use a rag to polish the appliances all over with olive oil and then wipe away any extra. Your stainless steel will look just as shiny as if you had used a commercial cleaner.

3. OLIVE OIL FOR KITTY

This is one technique I use on my own cat to help prevent hairballs. Simply add a teaspoon of olive oil to kitty's food once a week. It is not only effective when it comes to preventing those hairballs, it'll keep your

cat's coat super shiny. A few drops of olive oil rubbed between palms can be rubbed on human hair too for a healthy shine

4. OLIVE OIL AS A **MOISTURIZER**

Olive oil is an effective and non-toxic skin moisturizer—especially on our hands in colder months. Apply some directly on your hands and make sure to rub it into the cuticle area for optimum results. You can also use a small amount of olive oil directly on your body after a shower to keep your skin from drying out. Olive oil is effective on skin because it contains vitamins A and E, which are known to have significant healthy skin benefits.

5. OLIVE OIL AS A **MAKEUP REMOVER**

And, finally, use a little olive oil on a cotton ball as a safe eyemakeup remover. It's incredibly gentle and works instantly. You'll also be keeping chemical-based makeup removers away from the most sensitive area of your face.

Do Your Part to keep unwanted, manmade chemicals off your body and out of your home. Using olive oil for a variety of things other than making your favorite meals is an easy and effective way.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart. com. Send questions to terri@ doyourpart.com.

COMPOSTING TIPS

For those who want to try composting, we surveyed pros for thoughts on key ingredients and equipment you need—or don't.

Dale Newman, Dale Newman Design, Santa Monica,

"I take all of my kitchen scraps—fruit, vegetables, coffee grinds, tea bags and paper towels—and put them directly in the ground. I use a cheap black plastic 5- or 15-gallon bucket from the nursery, cut out the bottom and place it in a big hole in the ground. A saucer on top keeps the rodents out. I also add plants from the garden, but not weeds because the temperature will not get high enough to kill them. When the compost gets to surface level, I cap it with about 6 inches of soil and then pull the tub out. You can then dig a new hole and start over in another location that needs amending. Composting directly in the ground encourages worms by attracting them to the food."

garden in Los Angeles, California, July 28, 2012.

leen Ferguson Landscapes, Los Angeles:

"At home, we've had the most success with the worm composter from the Worm Factory. We place it right outside our kitchen on our deck. My two kids love it." www.wormfac-

Elizabeth Low, Elow Landscape Design and Build, Mar Vista, Calif.:

"I wasn't crazy about the tumbler from Gardener's Supply because it was producing way too much compost. I had enough compost for my en-

at F.K. Nursery in West L.A. told me to use sardines and raw eggshells to grow vegetables instead of compost. Dig about 10 inches down and plant six sardines under each plant and then put soil on top so it doesn't Kathleen Ferguson, Kath- attract raccoons. It works great. This year we had our best tomatoes yet."

> Christy Wilhelmi, Gardener, Los Angeles:

"The bin that I love is the Biostack from Smith & Hawken (no longer in production). It's basically three frames that stack on top of each other with a lid. It makes turning the pile easier. You're not turning a huge bin; it's simple and straightforward. The more you turn a pile, the more you are exposing it to bacteria and fungi so there are new surfaces for it to break down faster. The city of tire neighborhood. Patty Lee Los Angeles used to sell them for \$45, but now they just sell the Earth Machine, which is a fine machine too. Some people like to put their food scraps in the freezer and then later puree them and bury them in the ground." (Go to san.lacity.org, click on "Solid Resources," then "Recycling," then "Backyard Composting.")

John Lyons, the Woven Garden:

"What I encourage people to do if they don't want to compost is to dig a trench and put the raw materials in the trench and cover it with soil. You can really amend stubborn soil that way. It decomposes very quickly. There's a very good book on composting by Rodale, 'The Rodale Book of Composting.' The only secret to composting is to get the carbon to nitrogen correct and keep the pile moist but not wet."

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2013 19

Life & Style

Heartwarming moments defy chill at Rose Parade

PASADENA, California (AP)—A couple who became husband and wife on the "Love Float," a surprise reunion between a returning soldier and his little boy, and a grand marshal famed globally for her chimpanzee research were among the highlights of the 124th Rose Parade on Tuesday.

The parade's spectacular 42 floral floats brightened an otherwise cloudy New Year's morning and boosted the spirits of a chilled crowd estimated at some 700,000 spectators lining the five-mile (eight-kilometer)

"The only way that you're going to experience the Rose Parade is to be here in person," said Los Angeles resident Gineen Alcantara-Nakama, who camped out Monday night to save front row sidewalk spots.

"Growing up, I watched it on television, but it's not the same—the smell, the atmosphere, smelling the flowers as they come down the street. And the energy. It's like being with family all night long."

Spectators rose to a standing ovation when Army Sgt. First Class Eric Pazz, who was riding on the Natural Balance Pet Foods float along with other service members, got off the float and walked over to his surprised wife Miriam and 4-year-old son

Eric Jr., who came running out of the stands into the arms of his 32-year-old father.

Miriam Pazz had been told she had won a contest to attend the parade and did not know her husband, who is deployed in Afghanistan, would be there. A native of Clio, Michigan, Pazz is a highly decorated soldier who has also served in Iraq. The family, who currently lives in Germany, climbed aboard the float for the rest of the route.

Cheers also went up for a Chesapeake, Virginia, couple who tied the knot aboard Farmers Insurance "Love Float."

Gerald Sapienza and Nicole Angelillo were high school classmates who reconnected 10 years later and won the parade wedding over three other couples in a nationwide contest. They received a trip to Pasadena, a wedding gown, tuxedo, rings, marriage license fees, Rose Bowl game tickets and hair and makeup for the bride.



Newlyweds Nicole Angelillo and Gerald Sapienza, both of Chesapeake, Va., ride the Farmers Insurance "The Love Float," in the 124th Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif., Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013. The couple, married aboard the float just minutes earlier by nationally syndicated radio personality Sean Valentine, center, are the winners of a national promotion by Farmers.

was "Oh the Places You'll Go!" named in honor of the Dr. Seuss book. It served as a fitting slogan for grand marshal British primatologist Jane Goodall, who has

nia studying chimpanzees.

Goodall chose conservation as her message for the parade

Year's Day is for everyone to think of the places we can all go if we work together to make our world a better place," said Goodall, 78.

'Every journey starts with a step and I am pleased to see the Tournament of Roses continue to take steps toward not only celebrating beauty and imagination, but also a cleaner environment."

This year's parade also saw the first-ever float entered by the Defense Department.

The \$247,000 military float was a replica of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington to commemorate the veterans from that conflict.

The float that scooped up the parade's grand "Sweepstakes" prize for the most beautiful floral presentation and design was "Dreaming in Paradise" by fruit and vegetable producer Dole.

According to parade rules, every inch of the floats must be covered with flowers or plant material, most of it applied by volunteers in the last weeks of December.

Besides floats, the parade also featured 23 marching bands and 21 equestrian units from around the world

Banda El Salvador, a 200-

"My dream for this New plus member marching band and folkloric dance troupe, played sassy Latin rhythms and paid homage to their Central American country by dressing in the national colors of blue and white and shouting "Arriba El Salvador!"

> The Aguiluchos band from Puebla, Mexico, earned cheers for their fancy footwork and vaquero rope tricks. Colorful dancers from Costa Rica and South Korea were other crowd

Die-hard parade fans staked out their spots overnight or in pre-dawn hours with folding chairs, hammocks and portable barbeque grills despite frosty temperatures.

Emergency personnel received a number of coldweather exposure calls, police department spokeswoman Lisa Derderian told City News Ser-

As of 8 a.m. Tuesday, police had made a total of 22 arrests along the parade route since 6 p.m. Monday, said police Lt. Rick Aversan. All but one arrest were for suspected public intoxication. The other was for suspected possession of burglary tools that could have been used to break into cars, police said.

The parade's theme this year spent much of her life in Tanza-Storm hosts Rose Parade show after accident

By BEN WALKER

With a wave of her bandaged left hand, Hannah Storm returned to a most comfortable setting talking in front of a TV camera.

The ESPN anchor hosted the Rose Parade telecast Tuesday in her first on-air appearance since sustaining first- and seconddegree burns to her face, hands, chest and neck in a propane gas grill accident Dec. 11.

"I was just so happy to be there, so grateful," she said by phone from Pasadena, California. "It took a lot out of me, but it went great."

Storm lost roughly half her hair in the accident outside her home in Connecticut. She wore extensions for the two-hour show on ABC. Storm's eyebrows and eyelashes also were burned off. When a makeup artist brushed on her first eyebrow, "I wanted to kiss her, it looked so good," she said.

This was the fifth time Storm served as TV host for the Rose Parade. She said working alongside her former "SportsCenter" co-anchor, "Good Morning America" host Josh Elliott, eased her way.

She said it was to her benefit that she could ad-lib through the show. She's left-handed, and the burns and an infection make it

take notes.

"I could be myself today, just talking and reacting to what I saw," she said. "It was a very familiar place.'

She was warmed, too, by having her three daughters with her in California—15-year-old Hannah, 14-year-old Ellery and 11-year-old Riley.

"It was good that the girls got to see mommy doing what she usually does. Being on TV, be-



Storm

set. that brings a sense of normalshe said.

ing on the

 $S\,t\,o\,r\,m$ cautioned

that her return to the air just three weeks after being injured was far from normal. The fiery explosion left flame marks on her neck, and doctors have told her to keep the most seriously burned areas out of direct sunlight for six months. Dressing and showering are still difficult, too.

"This hair wasn't real, these eyebrows weren't real," she said. "It's important to remember burns take a long time to heal."

During the telecast, she thanked everyone from the Trauma and Burn Center at Westchester Medical Center

hard to turn pages on a script or who treated her. Her husband, NBC sportscaster Dan Hicks, rearranged his schedule to stay home during her recovery.

Storm has received bunches of calls, texts, emails, tweets and other supportive messages. Tennis star Mardy Fish, ESPN colleagues Dick Vitale and John Kruk, and the Rev. John Jenkins, president of her alma mater Notre Dame, were among those reaching out to the popular broadcaster and producer.

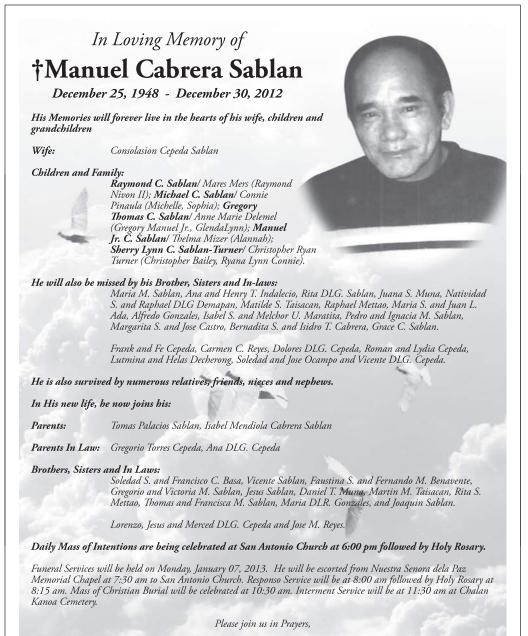
Storm will wait to see when she rejoins "SportsCenter" on the cable television sports network in Bristol, Connecticut. She hoped to anchor Sunday, but wants to see how she feels this week.

In the meantime, Storm plans to turn her ordeal into an opportunity to talk about how to safely operate propane gas grills.

Storm was injured when she tried to re-ignite the grill after the flame had gone out. She shut off the gas and when she turned it back on "there was an explosion and this wall of fire came at me in an instant."

Storm said two people she worked with Tuesday said they'd been burned in similar accidents.

"A lot of people are afraid of grills," she said. "I think this will be a good chance to talk about safety."



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Django Unchained

Friday and Saturday 12:45 4:10 7:35 10:00 Mon through Thurs 12:45 4:10 7:35

Cast: Jamie Foxx, Leonardo DiCaprio, Christopher Waltz

Synopsis.

Quentin Tarantino heads to western territory with Django Unchained, race relations in the South.



Parental Guidance

Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:55 Mon through Thurs 4:30

Cast: Billy Crystal, Bette Midler, Marisa Tomei

Old school grandfather Artie (Billy Crystal), who is accustomed to calling the shots, meets his match when he and his eager-to-please wife Diane (Bette Midler) agree to babysit their three grandkids when their type-A helicopter parents (Marisa Tomei, Tom Everett Scott) go away for work. But when 21st century problems collide with Artie and Diane's old school methods of tough rules, lots of love and old-fashioned games, it's learning to bend – and not holding your ground – that binds a family together.



Jack Reacher

Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:45 Mon through Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00

Cast: Tom Cruise, Rosamund Pike, Robert Duvall Genre: Thriller • Rated PG 13



This Is 40

Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 10:15 Mon through Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25

Cast: Paul Rudd, Leslie Mann, Jason Segel, Megan Fox Genre: Comedy • Rated R



Monsters Inc. 3D

Friday and Saturday 4:05 7:05 9:50 1:05 1:05 4:05 7:05 Mon through Thurs

Cast: John Goodman, Billy Crystal, Mary Gibbs Genre: Animation, Family • Rated G



The Guilt Trip

4:15 7:20 9:40 Friday and Saturday Mon through Thurs 1:20

Cast: Seth Rogen, Barbra Streisand, Kathy Najimy Genre: Comedy • Rated R



The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D

Friday and Saturday 12:55 Mon through Thurs 12:55 7:45

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 2D

Friday and Saturday 10:10 Mon through Thurs 4:20

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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Bruno Mars shifts tone on new album

LOS ANGELES—When Bruno Mars made it big a couple of years ago with his debut, "Doo-Wops & Hooligans," the impeccably attired singer did it with such conclusive style that you never really thought about the effort he put into his image.

In an era of amateur-driven "American"/ "Voice"/ "Factor" pop, here was a guy who seemed to have appeared fully formed one day: a pompadoured crooner in the tradition of Frankie Lymon, yet remade with modern trimmings that appealed to a crowd raised on X-rated hip-hop and post-everything boy bands.

His music felt just as precision-crafted: "Just the Way You Are" and "Grenade" propelled Mars to No. 1 on the singles chart, he sold 1.8 million albums and earned multiple nominations for Grammy Awards. It was a level of renown Mars had been aiming for since he moved to L.A. nearly a decade ago to pursue a solo career. Or at least that's the way it seemed.

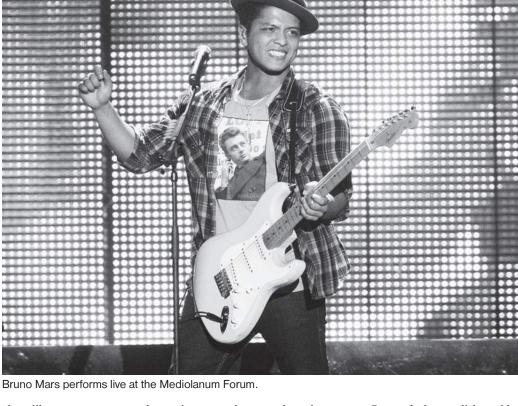
"Becoming famous was never what I wanted to do," he insists. "There's a lot of things that come with fame—it's what people in the limelight have to do. I'm like, 'Can't I just write and sing?"

On a recent visit to his Cape Cod-style home high in the Hollywood Hills, Mars, 27, looked dressed less for success than for hiding from it. Wearing rumpled jeans and an untucked T-shirt, his eyes shielded behind silver aviators, the usually dapper entertainer was due to fly to Sweden the next morning to promote his new sophomore disc. At the moment, though, he hardly seemed in the mood to talk himself up.

"If people are going to have an idea of me," he said, "I'd just want them to think of a guy who goes in the studio, works hard and jams out."

"Unorthodox Jukebox," which came out Dec. 11, gives a different impression of the man behind the choreographed moves, presenting a dramatic vision of love under siege by fame ("Young Girls"), fortune ("Natalie"), and his own tomfoolery ("When I Was Your Man").

Even relatively conflict-free tunes such as "Moonshine" and "Gorilla"—in which he invites a "dirty little lover" to bang on his



chest like a great ape—exude a gritty desperation.

It's an unexpected shift in tone from an artist known initially as pop's go-to good guy, an old-fashioned romantic doling out positive affirmations not long after he'd first appeared with ingratiating guest spots on B.o.B.'s "Nothin' on You" and Travie McCoy's "Billionaire."

"I think people will be surprised by it," said Philip Lawrence, one of Mars' partners in his L.A.-based production crew, the Smeezingtons. "But it's not for shock value—it's telling a story, digging deeper into the feeling of what it means to become a celebrity."

Speaking in a relaxed manner opposite his frenzied stage presence, Mars described that experience as "being thrown to the wolves and having to deal with it" and said he wanted "Unorthodox Jukebox" to reflect where he is, not where he was.

"I love those (older) songs," he said, sunning himself on a patio as one of his handlers arrived bearing cigarettes and coconut water. "I'll stand by them and sing them till the day I die. But an artist has to stay excited to keep on doing it. And the way to stay excited is to keep pushing and to keep experimenting. I feel like I pushed on this record."

So far he hasn't seen any push back: Last week the album entered Billboard's album chart at No. 2, while "Locked Out of Heaven," the disc's lead single, just spent its second week atop the Hot 100. Reviews have been strong too, with high praise from Entertainment Weekly and Rolling Stone, the latter of which said the album "makes the competition sound sad and idea-starved by comparison."

Indeed, the songs on "Unorthodox Jukebox" burst with detail, each one a meticulously constructed example of its genre. In "Locked Out of Heaven," Mars and his mates re-create the sharp-angled reggae-rock of the early '80s Police. "Treasure" is a lush disco-soul jam. And "If I Knew" channels Sam Cooke's church-born R&B.

The infectious sonics soften the effect of edgy themes such as the homage to a stripper named Where Your Stacks At in "Money Make Her Smile." And they provide a buoyancy that, as in so much great pop, lifts Mars above the sometimes-bleak scenes he describes. (It's worth remembering that the Smeezingtons were behind the endearingly acidic Cee Lo Green hit known on the radio as "Forget You.")

"One of their great talents is that they have this fun, light vibe in the studio," said Jeff Bhasker, who along with Mark Ronson joined the Smeezingtons for production and songwriting work on "Unorthodox Jukebox." "That allows you to be free so that you can let that primal emotion come out without being embarrassed. Then they polish afterward."

Part of that polish, added Ronson, is the charisma Mars has honed since his childhood days as an Elvis impersonator in Hawaii, where he grew up.

"Everything Bruno adds is what takes it into superstardom," said the producer, who recalled being impressed by Mars' performance in a tribute to Amy Winehouse at the 2011 MTV Video Music Awards. (Ronson co-produced Winehouse's "Back to Black" album.) "If you put any other singer over 'Billie Jean' it wouldn't be one of the most impactful songs of all time, and the same is true with 'Locked Out of Heaven.'"

Whether or not "Unorthodox Jukebox" lives up to the work of Michael Jackson, Mars said he longs for the pre-digital era when acts like Jackson and Prince retained an air of mystery.

At his house he seemed happy to chat despite the last-minute tasks he had to accomplish before flying to Europe. But if his music has grown more intimate, in person he still evinced some of the reflective opacity endemic to superstars: What you look for in Mars he'd prefer you find in his songs.

"Don't you love it that Prince doesn't use Twitter?" he asked. "Don't you think he's somewhere on a unicorn?"

Then he admitted that he wished he hadn't "wasted" a title he used for his first EP. It was called "It's Better If You Don't Understand."

Britney reportedly dumped from

LOS ANGELES—Just days after the Season 2 finale of "The X Factor" comes word that Britney Spears—the pop singer hired to bring ratings sizzle to Simon Cowell's TV singing extravaganza—is getting the heave-ho as a judge after just one season.

According to Us Weekly, Cowell is close to canning Spears because he doesn't feel she's earned her \$15-million

paycheck. "He wanted crazy Britney, but he got boring Britney," Us Weekly quoted an unnamed insider as saying.

Indeed, pre-"X Factor," Spears got attention for such off-hours antics as shaving her head and driving with her baby on her lap. But many critics feel she's been a bland presence on the show, repeatedly murmuring, "Amazing," when asked her opinion of acts.

Of course, it doesn't help that "The X Factor's" ratings have seen a double-digit decline from Season 1 on Fox. Before the show premiered, you will recall, Cowell was vowing to beat "American Idol."

At the moment, only Cowell and fellow judge Demi Lovato are poised to return next fall. L.A. Reid already announced

'X Factor

his intention to depart "The X Factor" and refocus on his duties as a music executive.

But a show spokeswoman said it's too early to talk about what the future holds for "X Factor." "No one has discussed next year's judging panel yet," the spokeswoman told Show Tracker. "Any reports otherwise are complete speculation." (Los Angeles Times)

Charlie Sheen apologizes for homophobic slur

lie Sheen has issued an apology after making a homophobic slur Friday night during the opening of rooftop bar at a seaside hotel

"I meant no ill will and intended to hurt no one and I apologize if I offended anyone," Sheen said in the statement.

The slur was caught on tape.

"How we doing?" Sheen says to the crowd as he takes the stage to introduce some musical acts, according to the video posted on TMZ's website Sunday. "Lying bunch of ... how we doing?"

On Friday, Sheen promoted on Twitter the opening of Epic

story El Ganzo hotel in San Jose del Cabo, near Cabo San Lucas, on the southern tip of Baja California. Sheen later tweeted a photo of himself with an arm around Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, touting the mayor's visit to the grand opening.

"From Boyle Heights 2 Mayor of LA..! Antonio Villaraigosa knows how to party!" Sheen tweeted at 8:18 a.m. Saturday, showing a photo of the grinning actor in a tight-fitting buttonup shirt, with his left arm slung around the mayor. Villaraigosa, flashing a toothy smile, was in a dark blazer with the top of his white shirt unbuttoned.

A flier on the hotel's Twitter page said Sheen was to present Slash, former lead guitarist of Guns N' Roses, at 9 p.m. Friday. David Sanchez, a hotel concierge, confirmed that Sheen was at the hotel to host the event Friday night.

Sheen promoted the bar opening all day Friday. "Ready for EPIC..!" he tweeted that night, just before the opening party. Earlier, he wrote, "Chilling @ hotelelganzo and this place is amazing!! Can't wait to launch the Club Epic tonight. ... What

Peter Sanders, the mayor's press secretary, confirmed that Villaraigosa was in Cabo and is scheduled to remain in Mexico until Jan. 2. The City Council's president, Herb Wesson, is acting mayor until then.

Sheen was fired last year from the hit show "Two and a Half Men" after he became critical of the show's co-creator, Warner Bros., and CBS. He now stars in the FX comedy "Anger Management."

Villaraigosa, who is term-limited, is in his final year as mayor of Los Angeles. The two-term mayor leaves office June 30. (Los Angeles Times)



"understand" it. He has never met our children, and does not acknowledge them as his grandchildren.

Father and son reconciliation

stalls after email exchange

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

his third wife

to take in at one time. He told me

plainly that he could not support

my decision because he could not

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

This year on Father's Day, I sent him a card and he replied by email that he was glad to hear from me and he hoped for a reconciliation, but was not sure how to go about it. I responded by email that I was cautiously optimistic that we could reignite a respectful relationship.

I haven't heard back from him and I suspect it's because he saw that I had changed my last name from his to my husband's, a decision I made after our marriage. My father was not aware that I had gotten married. I think I have overwhelmed him again, which has rendered him speechless. Please advise me on how to proceed.

PRODIGAL SON IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SON: Call your father, tell him you love him and that you would like to schedule a visit with him—but would like to send him some reading material before you do. Then contact PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). The phone number is 202-467-8180 and you'll find them on the Internet at www.pflag.org. They will be happy to provide you with literature for your dad to help him "understand." Frankly, he has my sympathy because before you hit him with the "double whammy," he didn't have a clue about who you really are.

Whether your name change overwhelmed him or not is irrelevant. The ball is now in your court, so if you want to have a hope of a relationship with your father, YOU will have to make the next move.

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, I proposed to the woman who changed me for the better. I love her with all my heart, but after we had been engaged for only four days everything came to a stop. Her mother was against the marriage, and my fiancee wasn't strong enough to follow her heart. We had been in a relationship for more than nine years, most of it long distance except for the last two years.

I couldn't understand her change of heart, and I tried with all my might to find some middle ground. "Claudette" has three children from her first marriage, and I had become a part of their lives and an important family friend.

After getting no reason for calling off the wedding, I began texting her for an answer only to be arrested for cyber-stalking. I know in my heart from letters sent back and forth that this wasn't Claudette's idea, but I can't let go. I know she's the one for me. We made a great couple, but her mother couldn't stand the fact that we were so close. How do I let her go?

GRIEVING IN FLORIDA

DEAR GRIEVING: You may not believe this, but you're a lucky man. It may take the help of a psychologist for you to disengage emotionally and move on. Given that you wound up in trouble with the law, this would be a wise decision.

It might also help to envision what it would have been like being married not only to Claudette, but also to her mother—because they appear to be joined at the hip, and the part that's doing the thinking isn't your former fiancee. This may be the reason that her first marriage failed.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



In this April 26, 2010 file photo, Hugh Hefner, left, and Crystal Harris arrives at the premiere of "Iron Man 2" at the El Capitan Theatre in Los Angeles.

Hugh Hefner marries his 'runaway bride'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hugh Hefner's celebrating the new year as a married man once again.

The 86-year-old Playboy magazine founder exchanged vows with his "runaway bride,"

Crystal Harris, at a private Playboy Mansion ceremony on New Year's Eve. Harris, a 26-yearold "Playmate of the Month" in 2009, broke off a previous enthey were to be married in 2011.

Playboy said on Tuesday that the couple celebrated at a New Year's Eve party at the mansion with guests that included comic gagement to Hefner just before
Jon Lovitz, Gene Simmons of

KISS and baseball star Evan Longoria. The bride wore a strapless gown in soft pink, Hefner a black tux. Hefner's been married twice before but lived the single life between 1959 and 1989.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY KING FEATURES SYND., INC

Q: There is a show on cable that my husband and I really love called "Paranormal Paparazzi." Can you tell me if/ when the second season will air?—Trudy T., via e-mail

A: I spoke with "Paranormal" host Rachel Fine, and she told me that it might be up to the fans as to whether it gets a second season. "Paranormal Paparazzi' is one of the most interesting projects I've ever worked on. While I was excited to take a fun, 'TMZ'-style approach to the paranormal, I was seriously surprised by some of the things I encountered. Working on this show for the Travel Channel really changed my outlook on the world—I legitimately had experiences I can't explain. My eyes were opened this season, and I definitely hope we'll come back for more!"

To help facilitate the approval of a second season, I suggest you



Rachel Fine

head over to travelchannel.com/ about/viewer-relations. on General Comment, then TV Shows, then Other. And then write a couple sentences about how much you loved "Paranormal Paparazzi" and really hope they renew it for a second season.

Q: I read on your Twitter feed that Heart had been nominated for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame recently, and I wondered if they had gotten in?-Jeremy S., Springfield, Ill.

A: In December, the HOF committee announced that Heart-including sisters Ann and Nancy Wilson-would indeed be in the class of 2013. Other inductees include Canadian rockers Rush, the late disco queen Donna Summer, singer/ songwriter Randy Newman, hip-hop group Public Enemy and blues guitarist and singer Albert King.

Q: I thought I had seen or read that Elizabeth Perkins would be a new sitcom this fall, but I haven't seen her anywhere. Was it canceled?— Patricia L., via e-mail

A: Elizabeth can be seen this spring—April 3 at 9:30/8:30c to be exact—in the new ABC comedy "How to Live With Your Parents (for the Rest of Your Life)." She co-stars with Sarah Chalke and Brad Garrett. Of the show, Elizabeth told me: "What I love about this show is you've got three generations of people living in the same household,

mostly because of the economy, which is happening all over the country.

"It's wacky in the way that real life is wacky. It's not this big style of sitcom acting; it's funny in a character-driven way. It's the situations we find ourselves in that are funny, as opposed to setting up this whole big plot point."

Q: I love Steven Pasquale of "Rescue Me." What can I see him on now?-Yolanda W. in Pennsylvania

A: Beginning Thursday, Jan. 31, you can catch Steven in NBC's new drama called "Do No Harm." Steven plays a neurosurgeon who has a serious problem when he learns that his body is no longer responding to the serum that keeps his dangerous alter ego in check.

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@ cindyelavsky.com.

22 THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2013 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

PEOPLE ALWAYS SEEM SO CRABBY AND ANIMALS ALWAYS SEEM SO CONTENT. I WONDER WHY THAT IS.

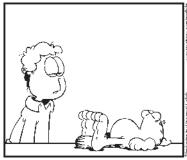
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE ANIMALS KNOW THEY'RE SUPERIOR AND PEOPLE KNOW THEY'RE INFERIOR







By Bill Waterson Garfield®







By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

WE NEED A DATE NIGHT



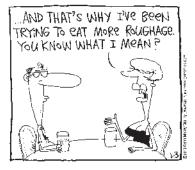






By Bryan Basset

The Duplex





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or lead to double standards. Do your own thing if

the old with the new will be your gateway to a

better standard of living as well as enhance your

er leading to new beginnings. Don't rule out what

you are capable of doing. Believing that you can

options that use your resources, skills and talents

the most. Once you know exactly what you want,

you can enlist the assistance you need.

reach any goal you set will lead to victory. •••

reputation and your current position.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Life is

looking up and past pursuits can start to

pay off. Your insight and ability to meld

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Taking a

critical look at where you have been and

where you are headed will be an eye-open-

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Too many

options will be your downfall. Cut through

your choices quickly by harnessing the

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12 Sandwich	48 Twins'	grps.	musical
treat	home	6 Tulsa	29 Historic
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54				55					56			

Yesterday's answer 1-3

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King -eatures service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Eli Manning, 32; Danica McKellar, 38; Mel Gibson, 57; Victoria Principal, 63.

Happy Birthday: Pick and choose your projects and friends carefully. Enthusiasm is a wonderful thing, but only if you follow through to the end. You have a habit of running out of steam when you need it the most. Keep your personal life separate from your professional and do not allow any slowdown to occur when it comes to moneymaking endeavors. Your numbers are 9, 13, 22, 25, 33, 40, 48.

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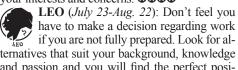
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Run the show instead of giving someone else the upper hand. You may face adversity, but in the end you will build confidence and make an impression that will stop anyone from messing with you again. A relationship will lead to emotional changes.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Share information and you will learn something new that you can apply to a project you want to accomplish this year. Consider your position and lifestyle and the positive changes you can make to

better the world in which you live. ****OCOO** GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let an impulsive decision hold you hostage. Budget will be key to how far you'll advance. Bide your time and spend wisely. Invest in your future. Hard work will lead to your success, not depending on luck. 😂

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make a statement. Step outside your inner circle and experience what's being offered that you can utilize in your own pursuits. Partnerships

will have a favorable influence regarding your success this year. Stick close to those sharing



ternatives that suit your background, knowledge and passion and you will find the perfect position or direction. Keep your emotions out of the workplace. OOO

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Move toward the path that you find most inviting. Don't worry about what others want you to do when the bottom line is finding your own comfort zone. Show confidence and aspire to be and do your best. New friendships will bring new

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Slow down and observe. Remembering days gone by and people and places that made you feel happy or secure will help you find peace in

the choices you make now. A chance to fraternize with people sharing your concerns and interests is apparent. 🛇 😂 🔾

nize what you have to offer and you will avoid being manipulated by someone trying to get something from you for less. Let your intuition guide you when it comes to personal and domestic matters. Creative input will

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Partnerships will fall short if you cannot maintain equality. Inconsistency or asking for too much will lead to hidden matters that can upset your plans

EUGENIA your interests and concerns. THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

if you are not fully prepared. Look for al-

possible and avoid controversy. ••

prospects. 🛇 🗘 🗘

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Recogsave you money. 🛇 🍪 😂

Birthday Baby: You are original, unpredictable and you sport a unique mysterious demeanor. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	3		1			6		
9								
			5 3	9	3			2
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		2 4 9				5 9 3		
		9			6	3		1
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		5			7		3	

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	8	3	7	4	5	6	2	1
4	5	6	2	1	3	7	9	8
2	7	1	8	6	9	5	3	4
3	9	8	4	2	6	1	7	5
1	4	2	5	7	8	3	6	9
7	6	5	3	9	1	8	4	2
6	2	7	1	8	4	9	5	3
8	3	4	9	5	7	2	1	6
5	1	9	6	3	2	4	8	7

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WONDERWORD,

ARGENTINEAN CARAMEL

By DAVID OUELLET

Solution: 8 letters

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizon-tally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftower letters spell the Wonderword.

D	Т	F	Ε	S	Ε	С	U	Α	S	Υ	R	U	Ρ	Ρ
R	U	-	U	D	W	R	S	G	G	Ε	С		Р	S
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0	Ε	Ν	K	Α	Μ	S	Α	L	Т	S	Ε	Κ	Α	С
G	D	О	Ε	Α	Ο	С	О	С	Α	R	Α	Μ	Ε	L
Υ	0	Т	Ν	Α			S	F		R	Μ	Ε	L	Т
С	S	Ρ	U	D	D		Ν	G	Т	U	Ν	L	Α	W

Boil, Bonbons, Butter, Cakes, Candy, Caramel, Cheesecake, Cocoa, Coconut, Cold, Cooked, Creamy, Crème, Custard, Dulce De Leche, Eggs, Extract, Filling, Firm, Flan, Flour, Fudge, Good, Hard, Homemade, Honey, Ice Cream, Melt, Mold, Peanut, Pies, Poured, Pudding, Raisin, Rich, Salt, Sauce, Shortbread, Spice, Steam, Stir, Sweet, Syrup, Tart, Topping, Walnut, Warm Yesterday's Answer: Profits

THE COLLECTED WOMERFACED, Women Site 1984 bloom 3,3 fear year and the symptom relinearized real follows, geal (S.R. see our S. passage are 40.7 to relatious release SER (S.C. blooms vor, 12 was release as Mindel Son prolong a CAM (Abb verhale shallows he in real Older). An or Newton 1970 with a Pressory (No FOR collections of Applications from a reproduction of Came 3 and relation before its second relinearies of Came 3 and relation before its second relations.

EMPLOYMENT

(6) Fisherman, (4) Sales Representative, (1) Dive Master. Minimum salary Send resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O.Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950

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2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For \$200.00/month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

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- 2 vacancies for **Operations Managers.** Wage per hour depends on qualifications. College level, or an equivalent of at least 4-5 years of continued experience in supervising bakery operations. Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be computer literate. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.
- 2 vacancies for Sales Associates. Wage range \$5.55 to \$5.70 per hour. High school level, or an equivalent of at least 4-5 years of continued experience in sales. Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be computer literate. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred
- 6 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers.** Wage range \$5.55 to \$5.70 per hour. High school level, or an equivalent of at least 3 years experience in baking. Knowledge in operating a cash register or POS system preferred. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health and good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to provide current police and court clearance, must be able to obtain health certificate, must have a reliable transportation and must agree to a drug test

Please get application forms and submit them at our Winchell's Garapan location from 8am to 12 noon or email them to dennys@guam.net



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(1) Event Coordinator

ume to PO Box 500866 CK Saipan, MP 96950

Mayflower Corporation

(1) GRAPHIC ARTIST

(1) MANAGER

- Must have at least 3 years work related experience

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Certified Optician (1) - Cut, grind, and polish eveglasses, contact lenses, or other precision optical elements. Assemble and mount lense: into frames or process other optical elements Includes precision lens polishers or grinders centerer-edgers, and lens mounters Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications. **Certificatio**n and Advance Certification is required.

Submit application at Hardt Eye Clinic, Inc. dba Hardt Eye Clinic; Diabetes Education Center located next to MegaByte, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road, Salary commensurate credentials and qualification.

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JD's Corporation

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- Must work flexible hours
- \$5.55/hr
- Please submit your resume to System 4U, Saipan or call Maricel B. Sablan at 483-7002

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(1) Cook/Helper Salary \$5.55/hr Must have some cooking experience

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Job Vacancy Announcement

(13) HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC - \$5.60 to \$8.00 per hour. Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanic, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, excavators, trucks, profilers and conveyors, used in construction. Must be able to work flexible time.

(2) PAINTER - \$5.75 to \$6.00 per hour. Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a Painter. With knowledge how to paint walls, equipment, buildings, bridges, and other structural surfaces, using brushes, rollers, and spray guns. May remove old paint to prepare surface prior to painting. May mix colors or oils to obtain desired color or consistency Must be able to work flexible time.

minimum of 5 years experience as a maid. Perform any combination of light cleaning duties to maintain private households or commercial establishments, in a clean and orderly manner. Duties may include making beds, replenishing linens, cleaning rooms and halls, and vacuuming. Must be able

(4) ARCHITECTURAL AND CIVIL DRAFTER - \$6.00 to \$9.00 per hour. Must be a college graduate with minimum experience of 5 years. Must know how to prepare detailed drawings of architectural and structural features of buildings or drawings and topographical relief maps used in civil engineering projects such as highways, bridges, and public works. Use knowledge of

(2) GENERAL MAINTENANCE - \$5.65 TO \$6.00 per hour. Must be high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as General Maintenance. With experience which demonstrates ability to perform carpentry, plumbing, painting, masonry, electrical wirings, grounds keeping, and standard practices and use of variety of hand and power tools used in the maintenance and repair of building facilities.

(4) AUTO BODY REPAIRER - \$5.60 to \$6.00 per hour. Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as Auto Body Repairer. With knowledge how to repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and

All positions close on January 10, 2013. Applications are available at GPPC Inc office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of valid Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required. GPPC, INC. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

church court

Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201

(1) HOUSEKEEPER - \$5.55 to \$6.00 per hour. Must be a high school graduate or

building materials, engineering practices, and mathematics to complete drawings. Must be able to work flexible time.

straighten vehicle frames. Must be knowledgeable on how to perform Arc and Gas welding. Must be able to work flexible time.

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section



Nuggets end Clippers' team-record win streak at 17



Danilo Gallinari scored 17 points as the Denver Nuggets stopped the Los Angeles Clippers' franchise-record winning

streak at 17 games with a 92-78 victory Tuesday night.

The Clippers' streak was the longest in the NBA since the Boston Celtics won 19 in a row from Nov. 15-Dec. 23, 2008.

Kenneth Faried added 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Nuggets, who won its eighth in a row at home. Andre Miller, starting in place of point guard Ty Lawson, had 12 points and 12 assists for the Nuggets, while forward Andre Iguodala also chipped in with 12 points and eight assists.

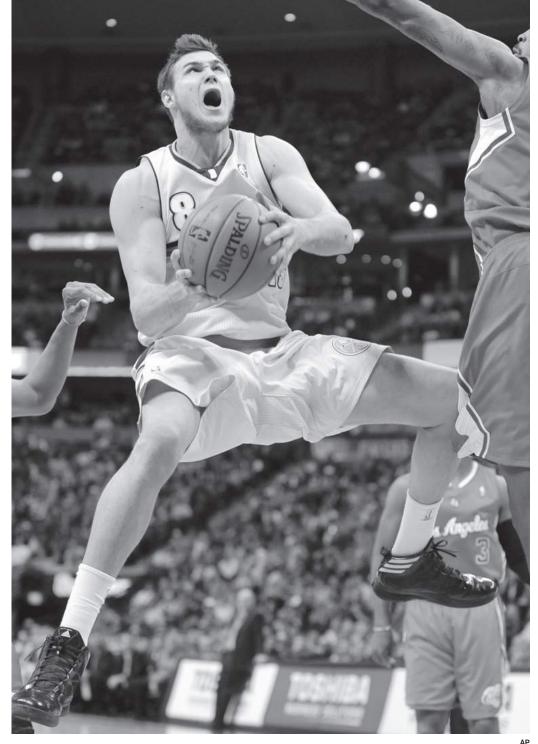
Blake Griffin and Eric Bledsoe had 12 points apiece to lead Los Angeles, which were hurt by poor shooting from 3-point range (5 of 29, 17.2 percent) and the free-throw line (13 of 29, 44.8 percent).

After Bledsoe hit a 3-pointer to pull the Clippers to 65-58 with 1:54 left in the third quarter, the Nuggets scored eight of the next nine points, including JaVale McGee's first 3-pointer of the season at the buzzer to take a 75-59 lead into the fourth

The Clippers cut it to 87-73 with 4:02 remaining when Griffin made one of two free throws but the Nuggets, as they did throughout the game, had an answer with Iguodala getting loose in the paint for a slam. The Clippers didn't threaten the rest of the way.

Blazers 105, Knicks 100

In New York, the Portland Trail Blazers overcame Carmelo Anthony's 45 points and spoiled Amare Stoudemire's season debut, beating the New York Knicks.



Denver Nuggets forward Danilo Gallinari (8), of Italy, shoots against Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan (6) during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013, in Denver.

points for Portland, and Damian Lillard had 21 points, six assists

Nicolas Batum scored 26 Aldridge finished with 19 points and 14 rebounds.

Stoudemire had six points and five rebounds. LaMarcus on 3-of-8 shooting and one re-

bound in 17 minutes off the bench in his return from knee surgery. Anthony shot 14 of 24

and nearly led the Knicks back

from 19 points down after missing two games with a knee injury, but the Trail Blazers had too many options.

J.J. Hickson scored all of his 18 points in the first half as Portland won for the third time in four games.

Anthony had missed the previous two games with a hyperextended left knee. J.R. Smith had 28 points and 11 rebounds for the Knicks.

Hawks 95, Hornets 86

In New York, Josh Smith scored 10of his 23 points in the third quarter to lead Atlanta to the win.

Al Horford added 20 points, Kyle Korver had 14 and Zaza Pachulia 12 for the Hawks.

Hornets guard Eric Gordon, playing in his first home game this season, scored 11 points on 5-of-17 shooting. He made his season debut in a victory over Charlotte on Saturday after recovering from a knee injury.

Ryan Anderson scored 23 points and Greivis Vasquez added 17 for the Hornets. Vasquez also had 10 assists and nine rebounds.

The Hornets' Anthony Davis struggled from the floor, making four of nine shots for nine points but had 12 rebounds and blocked four shots.

Mavericks 103, Wizards 94

In Washington, Vince Carter scored 23 points, O.J. Mayo and Darren Collison had 15 apiece and the Mavericks snapped a sixgame losing streak.

When the Wizards (4-25) took a 14-point lead early in the second quarter, Dallas, which had arrived in Washington in the midst of its longest skid in nearly 14 years, rallied. The Mavericks trailed by four at the half and outscored the Wizards 35-19 in the third to take an 83-71 lead.

Chris Kaman scored 12 points for Dallas, and Shawn Marion had 11 points and a season-high 14 rebounds.

Bradley Beal equaled a career high with 22 points for the Wizards.

Pistons 103, Kings 97

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Greg Monroe had 18 points and 11 rebounds, and the Pistons held on for their first three-game winning streak of the season.

Sacramento cut a 16-point fourth-quarter deficit to one, and Detroit led 100-97 when Austin Daye made a 3-pointer with the shot clock running down with 11.5 seconds left.

Detroit has won five of six, in large part because of terrific play from its reserves. The group scored 44 points Tuesday despite losing Charlie Villanueva to a second-quarter ejection.

DeMarcus Cousins had 21 points and 14 rebounds for the Kings.

76ers 103, Lakers 99

In Los Angeles, Jrue Holiday had 26 points and 10 assists, and Evan Turner added 22 points and 13 rebounds to lead Philadelphia over Los Angeles.

The Lakers (15-16) have matched their worst start after 31 games since the 2002-03 season, when they began defense of their third straight NBA title with a 12-19 record.

Kobe Bryant, who shifted from shooting guard to small forward five games ago in coach Mike D'Antoni's redesigned rotation, led the Lakers with 36 points. Steve Nash added 12 points and 10 assists.

Down by nine with just under 3 minutes to play, the Lakers closed to 99-97 on Bryant's 3-pointer with 1:28 left. But Spencer Hawes responded with a 21-footer 16 seconds later and Holiday helped close it out on a driving dunk with 22.4 seconds on the clock.

NEW YORK (AP)—The proposals are flying back and forth

between the

NHL and the players' association. Whether significant progress is being made in the process still isn't all that clear.

The league made a counteroffer on Tuesday night in response to one it received from the players on Monday and now the NHL is waiting for another answer.

A full day of smaller group meetings wrapped up with a full bargaining session that lasted about 30 minutes Tuesday night. The union took the league's latest offer back to its headquarters to begin reviewing it.

"They did make a comprehensive response to what we gave them yesterday," executive director Donald Fehr said. "We asked a couple of questions, and now what we have to do is go through the document, try to make some sense out of it, compare it and see what the appropriate thing is to do next."

NHL, players' union meet for 30 minutes

touch with the NHL on Wednesday morning, and added he anticipates the sides will get back together during the day.

"I am reasonably certain of it," Fehr said.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman declined to provide details of the league's latest offer, but said it addressed specific areas the union requested.

"There were certain things that the players' association asked for that we agreed to, there were some things that we moved in their direction, and there were other things that we said no," he said. "That's part of the process."

But it's a process that has limited time to be completed. Bettman said Monday the NHL has told the union a deal needs to be in place by Jan. 11 so a 48-game season can begin eight

It is unclear how many issues still need to be resolved and

Fehr said he will get back in how far apart the sides are in key areas.

> "Nobody is counting," Bettman said. "We're not trying to keep score, we're trying to get an agreement."

> Both sides agreed that it is a positive sign they are getting into a rhythm of talking and meeting and exchanging ideas on a regular basis.

"It is better to be meeting than not. I am not saying anything more about it," Fehr said.

The only way to bridge the gaps to a deal that would save the season is to keep working at it together.

"The fact that we're involved in a continuous process is something that I am glad to see, but we're clearly not done yet," Bettman said. "It's up to the players' association to come back to us now in response to what they have been given this evening."

Small groups from each side met and conferred by conference calls all afternoon about provisions of a potential collective bargaining agreement. A full meeting of the negotiating teams didn't begin until 9 p.m. and wrapped up relatively quickly after the NHL presented its counterproposal.

The afternoon sessions were more for informational purposes.

"Those were more technical," Bettman said. "There were a variety of issues where there weren't what I would call negotiations. It was understanding what each side was looking for, explaining what the issues were that were being discussed just to make sure there was a common understanding."

There is a little less than two weeks left to reach an agreement and hold one week of training camp before starting the season. All games through Jan. 14 have been canceled, claiming more than 50 percent of the original schedule.

The NHL is the only North

American professional sports league to cancel a season because of a labor dispute, losing the 2004-05 campaign to a lockout. A 48-game season was played in 1995 after a lockout stretched into January.

The NHL was supposed to be celebrating its annual outdoor Winter Classic between the Toronto Maple Leafs and Detroit Red Wings on Tuesday—the 108th day of the lockout— at Michigan Stadium. But that game was canceled long ago along with the All-Star game.

When the sides met Monday, for the first time since Dec. 13. the union brought a condensed counterproposal in response to the NHL's 288-page contract offer. There were some discussions between the negotiators and some time spent apart in internal meetings.

It is still possible this dispute eventually could be settled in the courts if the sides can't reach a deal on their own.

The NHL filed a class-action suit this month in U.S. District Court in New York in an effort to show its lockout is legal. In a separate move, the league filed an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board, contending badfaith bargaining by the union.

Those moves were made because the players' association took steps toward potentially declaring a "disclaimer of interest," which would dissolve the union and make it a trade association. That would allow players to file antitrust lawsuits against the NHL.

Union members voted overwhelmingly to give their board the power to file the disclaimer by Wednesday. If that deadline passes, another authorization vote could be held to approve a later filing.

If progress in negotiations is made Wednesday, it seems likely that the union will let its self-imposed deadline pass with a disclaimer declaration.

Regular season winners don't always make champions



DENVER (AP)— The Denver Broncos and Atlanta Falcons, who tied for the league's best

record at 13-3, are well aware of one of the NFL's biggest truisms: more often than not, the regular season is for suckers.

Over the last decade, just two of the 13 teams that had the best regular season record—or tied for the best mark—went on to win the Super Bowl: the '02 Buccaneers and the '03 Patriots.

The last eight teams to enter the playoffs with the best record bowed out before they could put their fingerprints on the Lombardi Trophy and revel in a rain of confetti.

Both the Broncos and Falcons are promising to practice like champions this week and not allow rest and relaxation to turn into rust and ruin.

In the last seven seasons, three No. 6 seeds and a No. 4 seed ended up winning it all, giving hope to the likes of the Ravens, Redskins, Bengals and Vikings in this year's playoff pool.

A year ago, the Green Bay Packers rested their regulars in the season finale and they lost their edge, becoming the first 15-1 team to lose its first playoff game—to a New York Giants team that was 7-7 in mid-December and went on to win it all.

"That's kind of what it was for us when I was in Indy," Broncos wide receiver Brandon Stokley said of the '05 Colts, who went 14-2 but lost to Pittsburgh in the divisional round. "We kind of rested the last week, then we had a bye. It's too much. So, I like just grinding every week, just playing football."

That's exactly what Peyton Manning's new team did, securing the AFC's top seed Sunday with its 11th straight win.

Along with the Falcons, Patriots and 49ers, the Broncos get a break this week, one that can prove a pitfall as much as a profit.

'We've just got to practice like we're playing this week," Denver receiver Eric Decker said.

While the Broncos stormed into the playoffs, the Falcons, who already had the NFC's top seed secured, didn't gain any momentum Sunday, losing to Tampa Bay.

"Before this game was played, we were the No. 1 seed in the playoffs, at the end of the game, nothing has changed,"



Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning throws a pass in the first quarter of an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2012, in Denver.

Falcons tight end Tony Gonzalez reasoned. "We're a very good team; we'll just use this as a wake-up call."

Says another Atlanta veteran, Asante Samuel: "We're going to practice like champs. And we're going to play like champs from now on.

So will the Broncos. Coach John Fox is using the bye week to stay sharp, calling for short, crisp practices on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and a mandatory weightlifting session Saturday, mainly to keep the team "focused, not concerned with flights to other states and those type of things, especially close states."

Like Nevada, where oddsmakers have made the Broncos the favorite to win the Super Bowl.

Of course, the Packers were in this position last year.

It's not just the NFL where the season's best team usually falters in the playoffs.

In the last 10 seasons, only two teams in each of the other major pro sports leagues parlayed the best regular-season record into a championship, according to STATS, LLC. They were: the 2007 Red Sox and the '09 Yankees, the 2002-03 Spurs and the

`07-08 Celtics and the Red Wings in 2001-02 and `07-08.

Since the first Super Bowl, the team with the best regularseason record has won just 21 of 46 championships, or 46 percent, which is more than in the NHL (42 percent), NBA (41 percent) and MLB (28 percent), according to STATS.

"Everyone wants to have the best record, win the division and play at home for the playoffs, but in my opinion, the team that is playing the best has the best opportunity," said NFL Network analyst Kurt Warner, a former MVP and Super Bowl champion. "This game is always about confidence and momentum. If you have it, you're tough to beat, nobody wants to play you and it gives you a distinct advantage. It starts in the regular season and you want to be playing well down the stretch."

With that in mind, here's how the dozen playoff teams rank from hottest to coolest:

1. Broncos (13-3)—They haven't lost since a 31-21 setback at New England on Oct. 7, before Manning got his bearings and found a comfort zone with his new teammates.

2. Redskins (10-6)—They've

won seven straight games since coach Mike Shanahan's comments about playing for next year (well, it is 2013 now!) after a loss to Carolina on Nov. 4 dropped them to 3-6.

3. Patriots (12-4)—Their only loss in their last 10 games was to San Francisco two weeks ago that snapped their 21-game home winning streak in December. Even in defeat, Tom Brady was spectacular as New England nearly became the first team since 1980 to win a game after trailing by 28.

4. Seahawks (11-5)—Forget the "Fail Mary" touchdown/ touchback ending that gave Seattle a disputed win over the Packers in Week 3 and hastened the return of the regular officials. The real robbery was the selection of QB Russell Wilson in the third round of the draft. He's guided them to five straight wins.

5. Bengals (10-6)—Cincinnati matched the best finish in club history, winning seven of its last eight games behind Andy Dalton and A.J. Green, who will now try to secure the Bengals' first playoff win since 1990.

6. Colts (11-5)—Indy won nine of its last 11 despite a soft defense, rallying around assistant coach Bruce Arians, who took over while coach Chuck Pagano was treated for leukemia. Pagano is back and the Colts have gotten over their breakup with Manning and moved on with rookie Andrew Luck.

7. Packers (11-5) - Green Bay won nine of its last 11 but couldn't close out the season with a win at Minnesota that would have ensured them a firstround bye. Maybe that's a good thing for a team that won it all as a wild card two years ago.

8. Vikings (10-6)—Although Adrian Peterson came up just short of breaking Eric Dickerson's single season rushing record, he carried the Vikings into the playoffs with wins in their last four games.

9. 49ers (11-4-1)—San Francisco lost to division rivals St. Louis and Seattle in December, but Colin Kaepernick and Michael Crabtree put the 49ers into the playoffs with some much-needed momentum with dazzling performances in a win over Arizona on Sunday.

lost two of its last four, but they didn't rest their regulars Sunday, when they lost to the Buccaneers and also lost two key

defensive players to injuries in pass-rusher John Abraham and cornerback Dunta Robinson.

11. Ravens (10-6)—Baltimore lost four of its last five and changed offensive coordinators in December. The Ravens used their regular-season finale at Cincy to rest their regulars, sitting banged-up playmakers Anquan Boldin, Haloti Ngata and Terrell Suggs while pulling Joe Flacco and Ray Rice after only

12. Texans (12-4)—For much of the year, they were the NFL's darlings behind J.J. Watt, Andre Johnson and Arian Foster, but they caved in December, losing three of their last four and falling from the top seed in the AFC to the third. Instead of a bye week to rest up, they get a short week to play Cincinnati.

All of this isn't to say the hottest team will be crowed champion or the coolest one has no shot.

"I think there are a lot of formulas," Fox said. "If you look at history, there are plenty of different scenarios. At the end of 10. Falcons (13-3)—Atlanta the day, you want to be playing your best football in January so you can get to February. That's really the only formula I know that's 100 percent."

Source: Price, Rays agree on -year deal



TERS-BURG, Fla.

(AP)—David Price got a hefty raise for winning the AL Cy Young Award.

A person with knowledge of the deal said Tuesday night that the three-time All-Star and the Tampa Bay Rays have agreed

ST. PE- to a one-year contract worth just over \$10 million, avoiding arbitration.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team had not yet made a formal announcement. Price earned \$4.35 million last season, when he went 20-5 with an American League-low 2.56 ERA.

The hard-throwing left-

hander barely beat out Detroit's Justin Verlander to become Tampa Bay's first Cy Young winner. He tied Jered Weaver for the league lead in wins and winning percentage and was sixth in strikeouts with 205 in 211 innings.

The Rays are expected to announce the deal with 27-yearold later this week

Price was the first overall pick in the 2007 draft out of Vanderbilt. He was promoted to the majors late the following year, when Tampa Bay made an improbable run to the World Series.

In 2010, he became the youngest pitcher to start an All-Star game since Dwight Gooden in 1986 and finished second



to Seattle's Felix Hernandez in Cy Young balloting after going 19-6 with a 2.72 ERA.

The ace of one of the deepest rotations in baseball last season, Price will be counted on even more in 2013 following a six-player trade that sent right-handers James Shields and Wade Davis to the Kansas City Royals in exchange for four minor leaguers, including top prospects Wil Myers and Jake Odorizzi.

Pacific Amusement thanks followers of SEDA/SBA

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Pacific Amusement wants to thank all players, location sponsors, and main sponsor Mar-Pac for another successful year as the Saipan Electronic Dart Association celebrated its 40th season and 20th consecutive year overall, while the Saipan Billiards Association finished its 15th edition and seventh year in 2012.

"We want to congratulate SBA's IT&E Voyagers and SE-DA's Try Luck Ladies team for their dominating performances yet again this season, in addition to SEDA's (Department of Public Lands) Sakude III,

of the Inter-Government division, DJ Fish and Na'Gupu, both of the B-class, for also establishing themselves as title contenders over recent years," said SBA and SEDA secretary Warlee Ellama in an email over the weekend.

The IT&E Voyagers have won three consecutive league titles and took two out of the last three Budweiser Cup postseason tournaments,

while Try Luck added its fourth consecutive pennant and Bud Light Cup sweep to its dynasty last year.

Ellama also shared plans of converting the SEDA league into an online paperless system in the future in order to cut costs of running the league.

Currently there is a \$25 fee per team to participate in the dart league, with an added fee of \$10 for each additional team

SEDA also recently announced the promotion of 13 players this past season during its awards ceremony held on Dec. 23, 2012.

C-players Bobby Castro, Joseph Cruz, Darwin Sablan, "Big" Scott Guerrero, Ronald Doria, Ronald De Ramos, Gil Gapor, and Carl Hocog all graduated into the B-division; B-players Danbilo Salinas and

Roderick Osorio moved up to the A-class; and A-players George Sablan, Bernard Paras, and Frank Codog advanced into the Masters field.

Both leagues are aiming to start up again at the end of the month; the deadline to register for the upcoming SEDA season is Saturday, Jan. 19.

Contact SEDA and/or SBA secretary Warlee Ellama at 233-4397 for more information.

4 CNMI

From Page 28

She is entered in both the girls U14 singles and doubles event in her second stint in the Post Margaret Court Cup.

The 13-year-old Ackerman is at the top half of the 32-player draw in the singles event and will face the No. 7 seed Beatrice Hetrel in the first round this Sunday. Before her singles' opening match, Ackerman and partner Charlotte Littlejohn of Australia will first duel the duo

of fourth-ranked Bronte Argent and Samantha Nyika this Friday for a quarterfinals berth in the 14-team field.

In her return trip to Albury, Ackerman is hoping to move past the second round after posting a 1-1 record in girls U12 singles event of the same tournament last year. She won her debut in the Post Margaret Court Cup, blanking Lilly Van Lent, 6-0, 6-0, before losing to Gabriella Da Silva-Fick. Ackerman and teammate Mercy Jane Eze also bowed to Jenae Bangweni and Jaslyn Skilbeck in the doubles.

Miller nailed only one win, too, in his four games in the Post Margaret Court Cup last year. In the U16 singles qualifying draw, he fell to Pacific Oceania teammate Tamarua Payne of the Cook Islands, 6-3, 3-6, 8-10, and to No. 8 seed Dominic Marquis of Australia, 3-6, 2-6, before saving a win against Lachlan Shrimpton in the consolation bracket, 6-0, 6-0. In doubles, Miller joined forces with New Caledonia's Heve Kelly and

and Nathan Ponton, 2-6, 2-6. This year, Miller is again in

they bowed to Cameron Cole

the qualifying draw of the men's singles and will battle Harry Macpherson-Wood in the lower half of the 128-player field tomorrow. Only eight players will earn qualifying slots to the main draw so Miller will need four wins to make the cut.

In the doubles, Miller is in the main draw and he and Tahiti's Nicholas Lestergie will square off against and Josh Barrenechea and Tom Greer-Smith in the first round this Saturday.

Rastguiy is also entered in the main draw of both the U14 singles and doubles. In the

doubles, she and Palau's Ayana Rengiil will debut against Anina Conradie and Maddison Stark this Saturday. In the singles event, Rastguiy joins Ackerman at the top half of the main draw and will challenge Grace Josephine Buffham in the opening round pairing this Sunday.

In the girls U16, the CNMI has a lone bet in Lopez, who will meet the fourth-ranked Maddison Brackenreg in the second round of the 18-player main draw this Sunday. Both Lopez and Brackenreg drew byes in the first round. In the

doubles, the 15-year-old Lopez will partner with Samoa's Anastasia Tapusoa and they will collide against Micaela Mckimmie and Rose Taglieri this Saturday in Round 1 of the nine-team field

After the tournament in Albury, the four CNMI bets and their Pacific Oceania teammates will head to Victoria for the 2013 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships. Details of their second tournament in the Land Down Under will be reported in Saipan Tribune's Friday issue. (Saipan Tribune)

TEAM

From Page 28

In the first game, Team Four poured it all in the fourth quarter to beat Air Apparent, 72-54.

Team Four fired 27 points against only 12 from Air Apparent, turning a slim 45-42 thirdquarter lead to a 17-point winning margin.

Rachel Abrams and Jeralyn

Castillo teamed up giving Team Four its second win overall and first after losing five straight games. Abrams had a gamehigh 30 points, while Castillo added 28.

Castillo knocked down three triples in the first period and scored 15 of their total points to power Team Four to a 19-8 advantage. Abrams then took over in the second period, drilling 8 of their 12 markers in that canto to keep Team Four on top, 31-24.

Air Apparent remained in contention despite Abrams and Castillo's early explosion, as Lalaine Pagarao exchanged shots with the two Team Four gunners. Pagarao finished with 13 first-half points and added 7 more in the third to keep Air Apparent afloat with still one full quarter to go.

However, Team Four managed to walk away with a double-digit win in the end,

as Air Apparent failed to stop Abrams, who nailed 14 points in the final canto.

With the loss, Air Apparent fell to a 3-4 slate and tied Team Go So Hard for second and third place.

Four more games will be played in the tournament before the playoffs start this weekend. Playoffs format will be singleelimination with the No. 1 team facing the No. 4 squad in the first semis game and the No.

2 and 3 teams colliding in the second semis match on Friday. Winners of the Final Four pairings will then slug it out in the finals this Saturday.

First Game

Team Four 72 – Abrams 30, Castillo 28, Pablo 6, Badilles 4, Sapong 3, Ocampo 2.

Air Apparent 54 – Pagarao 25, Ito 11, Javier 8, Mendoza 4, Gatchalian 2, Padilla 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-8, 31-24, 45-42, 71-54

Second Game

Team Go So Hard 57 - Palero 19, Travilla 17, Sablan 7, Lizardo 4, Olivos 4, Diaz 4.

Swerve 41 – K. Lebria 13, Williams 12, Alegre 7, Deleon Guerrero 4, Reyes 3, Pua 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-21, 17-21, 40-25, 57-41. (Saipan Tribune)

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From Page 28

ena Soll, and Gigi Zapanta.

The 14 female keglers will bowl in eight games to earn slots to the stepladder finals. Only the Top 3 bowlers after

the qualifying tournament will advance to the next round with the top finisher gaining automatic finals berth and twice-tobeat advantage. The No. 2 and 3 finishers will then slug it out for the second finals seat.

In the Fiji Prince of the Lanes, only seven youth bowlers will

battle in the six-game qualifying roll-off and only three will barge into the stepladder finals. Making it to the qualifiers list are M.J. Aldan, Ryan Batac, Angel Iglecias, Marcel and Marion McKenzie, John Taisacan, and Toby Verdaguer.

Registration for the Queen

and Prince of the Lanes will start at 2pm, while games will begin at 2:30pm. Entry fees are \$20 for youth and \$35 for the ladies division.

In the King of the Lanes, threetime monthly winner Raymond Angeles (June, August, and December) will lead 19 others in

'So, yeah, I'm sure there will be some head-scratching when we pop up in the Orange Bowl, some 'Who are they?' But we've played in some big games before," he added, "and we know we're responsible for representing the MAC. We won't let people down."

their guests.

great is that?"

the race for the 2012 crown on Jan. 13. Joining him are fellow monthly winners Simon Manacop (October and November) Robert Talavera (January and September), Raphael Zapanta (February and May), Percy Omechelang (March), Raymond Zapanta (April), and Raul Dumapit (July), and qualifiers Ben Aizon, Edward Baluyan, Ronald Batac. Beniie Cruz. Jerry Kaneshi, Jae Yong Jim, Paul Pangelinan, Jorge Soledad, Joe Sto. Domingo, Lito Teodoro,

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

Tony Yarobwemal, and Ruselle Zapanta.

The men's field will have a nine-game qualifier to determine the Top 3 bowlers who will march into the stepladder finals. Entry fee is \$45 and registration and start times are set for 1:30pm and 2pm, respectively.

Manacop won the 2011 crown, while Omechelang and Taisacan claimed the Queen and Prince of the Lanes plums. (Saipan Tribune)

ORANGE

From Page 28

the first things Compher learned during that Saturday morning drive was that Debbie Yow, his counterpart at North Carolina State, had already beat him back to campus, determined to be the first to interview Doeren. A few hours later, it was a done deal. All Compher asked for was a delay of a few hours so he could be in the room when Doeren told the team. When that meeting ended, he began another one, asking the players what they wanted in a coach, not who.

That's because Compher began working up a just-in-case scenario months earlier, settling on Rod Carey, NIU's offensive coordinator. But he wasn't going to make the call without the players buying in.

"The question in our business, at our level, is how does a good team become a great program? And I've always believed the answer is continuity. We were already a good team. This will be our fifth consecutive bowl appearance. We're one of only two teams (along with Oregon) to win at least 11 games the last two seasons," Compher said. "In this case, the last thing you want to do is rush into a big decision."

Already exhausted, Compher decided to sleep on it. When he went to bed, NIU was solidly inside the Top 20 and likely to move up with the win over Kent State. Plus, Texas was losing and Wisconsin was en route to an upset over Nebraska. Compher knew a slot in the Orange Bowl was a possibility, but still a dizzying one.

"I dozed off thinking, 'I've got to hire a coach tomorrow," Compher recalled. "That's all I knew for sure."

By the time he awoke Sunday morning, both Texas and Nebraska were out of the picture. Between negotiations on a new contract for Carey, he began checking bowl projections. Word that NIU was going to the Orange finally came

in a call from the MAC office in mid-afternoon, with a warning to keep it quiet until the official announcement Sunday evening. That's when Compher decided to add a flourish of his own. He sent an athletic department assistant down to the grocery with instructions to buy 100 oranges and not leak a word about why to anyone.

Just minutes before the bowl selection show began on ESPN. Compher introduced Carey as NIU's new coach. A roar went up, followed by a second a few minutes later as the team learned what Compher already knew: that the Huskies would be the first MAC team accorded a chance to bang shoulders with the big boys in a BCS bowl. A few minutes after that, as ESPN's commentators roundly panned the BCS' decision to include NIU, those oranges Compher sent out for came in handy, just not the way he'd expected. Players hurled them at the TV set.

"Of all the things running

through my head, I guess hadn't figured on that," Compher said, "but I understand it. Here, people know the MAC and how good it can be. But the further you get away from Midwest, the less knowledge there's bound to be and the less respect some people have.

And no matter the final score, there's already a silver lining. As news of Compher's action-packed few days made the rounds, someone at Hilton Hotels heard about it, saw the original cancellation and invited the Comphers to pick a weekend in Chicago as

"I already owed my wife bigtime," Compher said, "so how

N	BA S	TAND	INGS		Cleveland	7	25	.219	11 1/2		
					WESTERN CONFERENCE						
EASTER			EREN	ICE	Southwe	est I	Divisi	on			
Atlantic		San Antonio	25	8	.758	_					
	W	L	Pct	GB	Memphis	19	9	.679	3 1/2		
New York	21	10	.677	-	Houston	17	14	.548	7		
Brooklyn	16	15	.516	5	Dallas	13	19	.406	11 1/2		
Philadelphia	15	17	.469	6 1/2	New Orleans	7	24	.226	17		
Boston	14	16	.467	6 1/2							
Toronto	11	20	.355	10	Northwe	st [Divisi	on			
					Oklahoma City	/ 24	6	.800	_		
Southeast Division					Denver	18	15	.545	7 1/2		
Miami	21	8	.724	-	Portland	16	14	.533	8		
Atlanta	20	10	.667	1 1/2	Minnesota	14	13	.519	8 1/2		
Orlando	12	19	.387	10	Utah	15	17	.469	10		
Charlotte	8	23	.258	14							
Washington	4	25	.138	17	Pacific Division						
					L.A. Clippers	25	7	.781	_		
Central	Divi	sion			Golden State	21	10	.677	3 1/2		
Indiana	18	13	.581	_	L.A. Lakers	15	16	.484	9 1/2		
Chicago	16	13	.552	1	Sacramento	11	20	.355	13 1/2		
Milwaukee	16	13	.552	1	Phoenix	11	21	.344	14		
Detroit	12	22	.353	7 1/2		ВУ	THE AS	SOCIATE	D PRESS		

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2013 **27**

CNMI Swimmers at FINA World Swimming Championships



Victoria Chentsova is flanked by Rezne Wong, left, and Kensuke Kimura as they pose for a group photo at the gallery of the Sinan Erdem Arena during the 11th FINA World Swimming Championships held in Istanbul, Turkey last month.



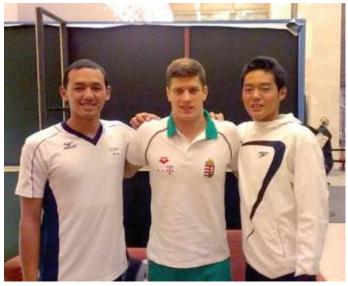
Rezne Wong stretches before the start of his race.



Rezne Wong checks on the clock after completing his 100m individual medley race.



Rezne Wong, right, poses with a fellow swimmer while waiting for the call out for their race.



Rezne Wong, left, and Kensuke Kimura, right, are joined in a group photo by a swimmer from Europe.



From left, Victoria Chentsova, Rezne Wong, Turkey's Bengu Kaptanoglu, and Kensuke Kimura pose for a group photo at one of the tourist spots in Istanbul.



Kensuke Kimura, left, has his photo taken with a Japanese swimmer.



watch the races with another swimmer.



Rezne Wong, Lane 4, plunges into the pool with the rest of the swimmers during the 50m 100m breaststroke race.



Rezne Wong is a few inches away from a first place finish on his heat in the qualifying race for the 50 breaststroke.



Rezne Wong wears the CNMI Team uniform while enjoying the swim races from the gallery.



Kensuke Kimura gets out from the waiting area to prepare for the 100m breaststroke race.

Saipan Tribune Sports

Regular season winners don't always make champions



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2013

4 CNMI jr. players compete in Australia









NMI junior players Christian Miller and Tammy Ackerman will return to the 2013 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup, while Mikayla Lopez and Negahr Rastguiy will debut in the five-day tournament at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales.

The four Commonwealth bets will be playing in the Post Margaret Court Cup, which will run from Jan. 4 to 8, as members of the Pacific Oceania

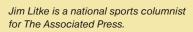
Touring Team. They earned slots on the elite squad after their impressive performances in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

Ackerman is reunited with her CNMI teammates, as she came to Australia

via Fiji where she is based for more than a year now, training at the Ocenia Tennis Federation's regional facility.

See 4 CNMI on Page 26

By JIM LITKE **AP Sports Columnist**





Team Four, Team Go So Hard recover



Team Go So Hard snapped Swerve's win streak in the 2012 Kanoa Resort Christmas

Basketball Tournament after pulling off a 57-41 upset in their game last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Team Go So Hard, which had a roller-coaster performance in the three round-robin tournament, improved to a 3-4 record, while Swerve dropped to a 6-1 slate.

Swerve failed to keep its immaculate record in the four-team caging after collapsing in the third canto. It was still ahead at the break, 21-17, before losing the driver's seat at the start of the second half after scoring only 4 points off Lily William and Kaylani Lebria's one basket apiece.

The beginning of the sec-



Team Four's Mikky Vargas hits the break on her dribble as Swerve's Kaylani Lebria steps in on defense during their game in the Kanoa Resort holiday caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ond half was a different story for Team Go So Hard, which exploded for 23 points in the third—its biggest output in any period. Ira Palero, who missed the first half, led Team Go So Hard's recovery in the third canto, scoring 13 points. Teresita Sablan and Jan Travilla also helped Team Go So Hard's cause in the third, combining for 10 points to lift their team to a 40-25 lead.

Team Go So Hard never relinguished the upper hand in the fourth canto, as Swerve was contended on trading baskets with the former in the payoff period.

Palero top-scored for Team Go So Hard with her 19 points, while Travilla also finished in double digits with her 17. Kaylani Lebria paced Swerve with 13, while Williams chipped in 12.

See TEAM on Page 26

If it's, "Where did I put the aspirin?" good luck. But if it's "How did Northern Illinois sneak into the Orange Bowl?" you've come to the right place. The story of how the Huskies wound playing Florida State in a big-money BCS bowl stretches back more than four decades. But the short version covers just a few days. It began with a 44-

37 double-overtime win against Kent State in the Mid-American

An Orange Bowl date

pressing question.

NIU couldn't turn down

any college football fans will awake New Year's

Day, glance at the TV listings, and then face a

Conference championship game in Detroit on Nov. 30, and got crazier from there. The next morning, NIU athletic director Jeff Compher set out on Interstate 94 toward the campus at DeKalb, Ill., with only one thing on his to-do list: Take out his wife Cathy for a 22nd wed-

ding anniversary dinner in Chicago that night. "That was the first casualty," Compher chuckled during a phone interview from Florida, where the Huskies were wrapping up preparations for Tuesday's game. "It's been rescheduled for February."

When he set off from Detroit with son C.J. in tow, Compher knew his life was about to get complicated. What he couldn't have known until his cellphone began ringing non-stop was how complicated, and how fast. In the first of a string of good decisions, he turned the wheel over to C.J.

"I knew we'd be going to a bowl, but there were so many combinations in play, I wasn't going to try and figure out which one. In the back of my mind, I thought we might have to find a new coach, because that's how things happen in the MAC. If you've got a good one, and believe me, Dave Doeren is one helluva coach, the big schools come calling quick."

Quick in this case turned out to be an understatement. One of See ORANGE on Page 26

41 bowlers qualify for SBA season-finale tourney



Saipan Bowling Association will hold its seasonending tournament on Jan. 6

and 13 with 41 keglers battling for the 2012 Budweiser King and Queen and Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes titles at the Capital Bowling Center.

The SBA/Budweiser Queen of the Lanes tiara will be up for grabs on Jan. 6 with the winners in the 12 monthly tournaments leading the contenders. The list includes Diane Camacho (February, March, and December), Lala Taitano (April), Ron Cal (May, July, and August), Yho Villavicencio (January and October), Gloria Omechelng (June), Carol

McKenzie (September), and Diane Chong (November). Also qualifying for the season-ending competition are Carrie Camacho, Marie Candado, Tess Fabie, Cora Muna, Myrna Santos, El-

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